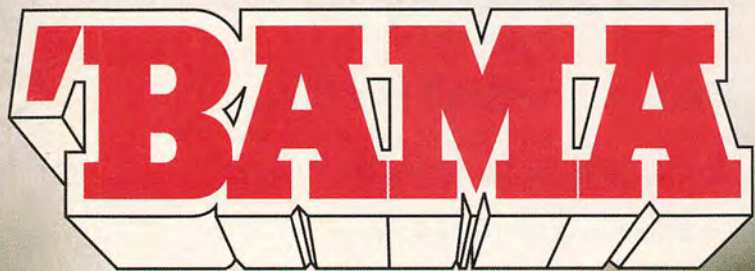


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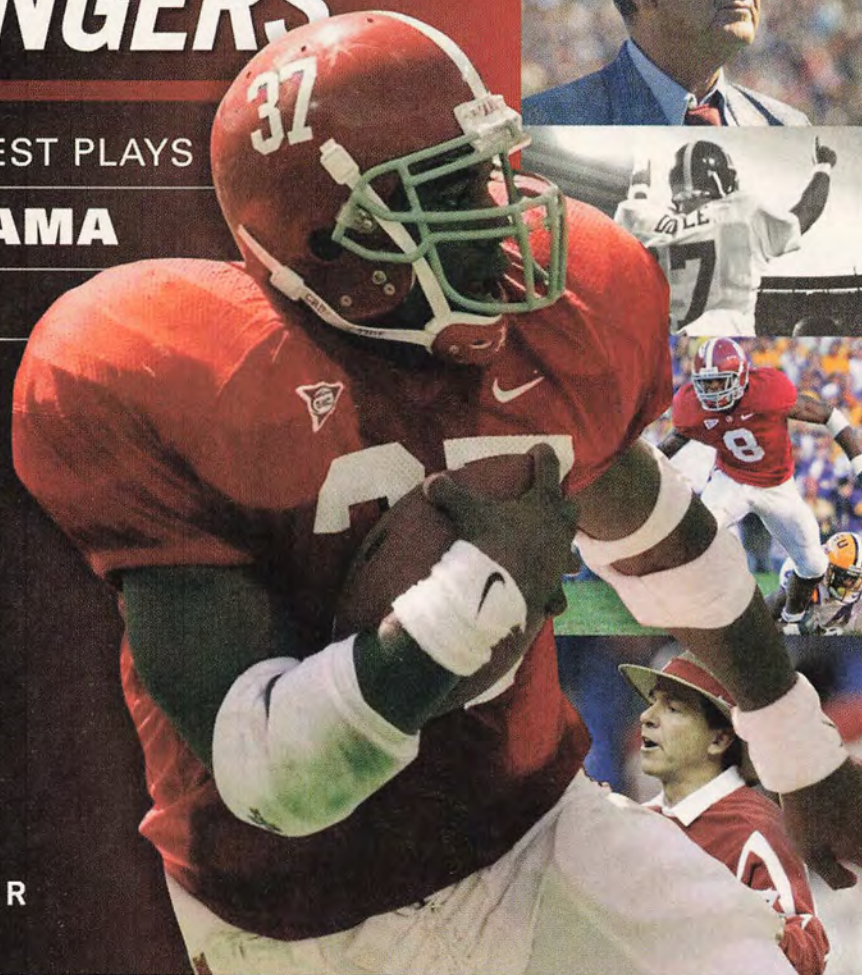
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KIRK McNAIR

Letter from the Editor

Dear Fellow Crimson Tide Fans,

Alabama Football Coach Nick Saban wants his team to "start fast and finish strong," and the 2009 National Championship Crimson Tide did that on a regular basis to go 14-0. There is no doubt that Saban and his coaching staff started fast in recruiting the signees who joined Bama's football family in February. Most of the work in gathering commitments was done before Bama left for the Southeastern Conference Championship Game in Atlanta, much less before the trip to Pasadena.

Nonetheless, one of the most active discussions on BamaMag.com in the days leading up to Signing Day was about whether the Tide was limping towards the recruiting finish line.

That line came about because one of the South's top prospects, defensive back Keenan Allen who had been committed to Alabama since last spring, made a late January decision to help his half brother get a scholarship. Zach Maynard, who had been a quarterback at Buffalo, will now have a scholarship to Cal, and so will a couple of Allen's former high school teammates. No problem. Alabama wanted Allen, but didn't have scholarships available for the hangers-on. There was also the potentially sleazy problem of Allen and his family retaining a "handler" to help make recruiting decisions.

The other concern among Alabama recruitniks was that Bama wasn't able to steal Shon Coleman, an offensive lineman from Mississippi. Coleman committed to Auburn early, then spent a month or so looking for something better. He visited Alabama, Ole Miss and Miami, but on signing day went with the Tigers.

So where did Alabama finish? Fourth in the nation. The fast start included Alabama having 11 signees enter The University in January in order to take part in the off-season conditioning program and spring practice, not to mention getting ahead academically.

SEC schools were stacked towards the top of the recruiting rankings with Florida rated first despite the off-again, on-again status of Coach Urban Meyer. Something to note: Florida coaches were recruiting last year as the national champions. This year it will be Alabama coaches who are flashing diamond rings and calling from the home of the national champions. Expect another fast start.

Will there be a strong finish for the 2011 class? It's hard to say. At this year's Signing Day press briefing, Saban pointed out the difficulty of a strong finish when the start is so fast. By this year's Signing Day Alabama (and most other schools) had already had one Junior Day, bringing in next year's potential signees. And another Junior Day was already in the works for a few weeks later. Moreover, some of those "juniors" will actually be sophomores.

Recruiters have to work way into the future now. Just a few years ago, college recruiters made many of their decisions based on how upcoming seniors did in summer camps. Now those players don't want to come to camps except to schools which have already offered scholarships.

Often left out, Saban pointed out, are players who mature later and become outstanding players during their senior seasons. Alabama got one of those this year, Brandon Ivory of Memphis. No one was recruiting him (it's hard to say that the 6-3, 330-pounder was "overlooked") until opposing coaches began talking about him. Saban said Alabama signee Keiwone Malone of Memphis played with Ivory in an all-star game and called Bama to recommend the defensive lineman. Saban went to Memphis, watched Ivory on the basketball court, and Alabama landed him.

Put that down as a "strong finish." ■

Sincerely,
Kirk McNair



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APRIL 2010 • ISSUE EIGHT

Features

- 5 **Stacking Them Up**
Nick Saban's recruiting machine adds another fine class
by Kirk McNair
- 9 **Meet The Class Of 2010**
A look at the Alabama football signing class
by Andrew Bone
- 22 **The Rest Of The Story**
There's more to 2010 recruiting than meets the eye
by Andrew Bone
- 23 **A Kick From Recruiting**
Dozen new players will impact soccer
by 'BAMA Staff
- 24 **Construction Zone**
Spring football part of building process
by Kirk McNair
- 28 **Golf Is Good**
Men's and women's golf teams among nation's best
by Kirk McNair
- 31 **Looking Forward**
Men's and women's tennis teams build on past success
by Jessica Paré
- 34 **Depth And Talent**
High expectations for track & field teams
by Rod Black
- 38 **Rising, Falling**
NFL draft stock report
by Peter Schraeder

Departments

- 4 **Letter From Editor**
- 8 **2010 Crimson Tide Signees**
- 27 **Spring Football Roster**
- 30 **Men's and Women's Golf Rosters**
- 33 **Men's and Women's Tennis Rosters**
- 42 **'BAMA Scorecard**
- 46 **Alabama Spring Sports Schedules**



Stacking Them Up

Saban's machine adds another fine class

In the somewhat wacky world of college football recruiting, it was interesting that an Auburn supporter would put Alabama's 2010 recruiting class into perspective. The subject was the amazing job that Alabama Coach Nick Saban and his staff had done in putting together three consecutive recruiting classes that ranked in the top four in the nation—number one in 2008, number two last year, and number four this year.

"What's the big deal?" said the Auburn supporter. "Southern Cal, Texas, Florida do it every year." And he was right. Although it had been a long time since Alabama had stacked up recruiting classes like that, it is true that Bama is in that small, elite group of college football programs that can expect to have good recruiting every year.

Taking it a step further, Florida had the nation's best recruiting class this year—a year after the Gators won the national championship. By the time the national title game is played, most recruiting is complete. Thus, the national championship coaching staff can expect the dividends of that crown to be in the following recruiting year.

So by various clues—elite program, national champion, outstanding recruiting staff—Alabama should have another great year of recruiting for Signing Day 2011.

One can't help but wonder how well Saban might have done if he had been able to be at full recruiting strength. As he pointed out on Signing Day, a head coach is allowed to be on the road recruiting only six weeks of the year. Two of his six weeks were taken up by pressing issues—preparation for the Southeastern Conference Championship Game and preparation for the National Championship Game.

While Saban would like an increase in the amount of time a head coach can recruit, he could

probably live with losing two weeks every year if it's for championship game work.

"It's a little more difficult when you don't have that time," Saban said. "So the emphasis has to be on getting players to come to your school so that you can start developing relationships with them then. We had 'Junior Day' already, like a lot of people have, before this recruiting season is even over. And we're going to have another one coming up here in a couple of weeks. So you try to get the players here so you get to know them a little bit better."

Saban said it's a team approach when prospects are on campus.

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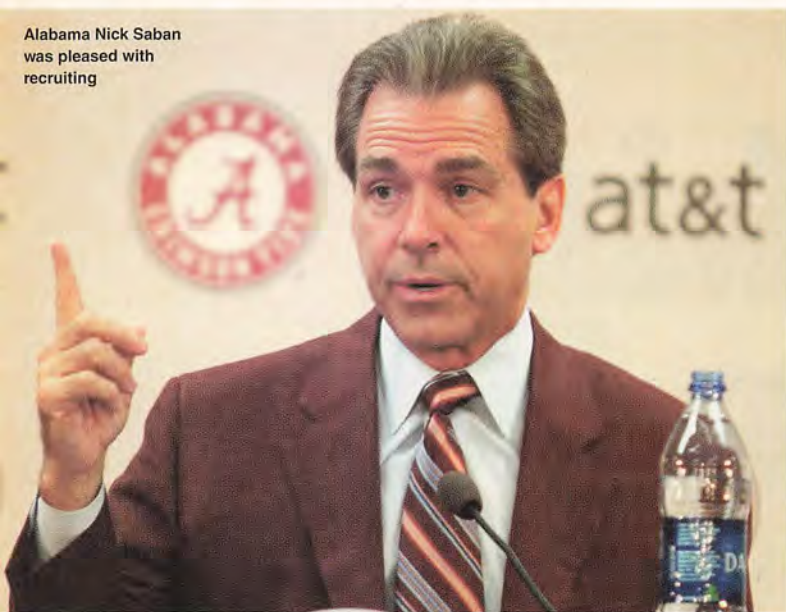
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Alabama Nick Saban
was pleased with
recruiting



University of Alabama

And You Thought Saban Took Recruiting Seriously

Alabama Football Coach Nick Saban is synonymous with the stone-cold business of college football. Nationally he is perceived as an authoritative leader. Stern responses from the podium during press conferences perpetuate a humorless public persona.

Prior to attending the BCS National Championship Game, 'BAMA Magazine was present at the Rose Bowl Game to witness Ohio State's victory over Oregon. Circulating in the press box was Big Ten Network commentator Glen Mason.

Best known for his years as head coach at Minnesota, he was once an assistant at Ohio State, where he was familiar with Saban. Their paths crossed on the recruiting trail and as members of the Buckeyes staff.

"When we were assistant coaches, he was a darn good coach and was a good recruiter but had a lot of fun too," said Mason, whose Golden Gophers defeated Alabama in the 2004 Music City Bowl. "I was at Ohio State and Pete Carroll left our staff and went to NC State. We hired Nick to be our secondary coach (1980-81) from West Virginia. Nick and I knew each other through recruiting the same area. He was a darn good recruiter. He never beat me, but gave me a run for my money.

"While he was still at West Virginia one day—this was right before our bowl practice at Ohio State—I met him for breakfast. He asked me about a really big defensive lineman—about 6-5, 260 pounds—from this town north of Youngstown. It wasn't my recruiting area but he was telling me about this guy. He asked me what I thought about him and I said, 'I think he's pretty good.' I didn't know anything about him but he was telling me everyone was recruiting him—Michigan, Notre Dame, everybody. When I finished breakfast, I got in my car and drove all the way up there. I walked in the school and I told the coach I'd like to see the kid, Billy Bob or whatever his name was. The kid walks in and he was 5-10 and 185 pounds. I called Nick up and said, 'You son-of-a-gun, you got me.' That's the truth."

—A.P. Steadham

"It starts with your assistant coaches and the job that they do," Saban said. He noted that the recruiting process is longer than it once was and that it is more difficult to evaluate talent, trying to project where those players will be in a few years.

He said the coaches also had to identify needs and fill those needs.

Those assistant coaches built relationships, Saban said. He added he thinks those relationships have to be built in other areas. "I think it's important for everyone in the organization," he said. "I think it's important for their position coach, the recruiting coach, the people in academics who are going to work with them, the medical staff, the strength and conditioning staff...everybody they're going to be involved with, to have a relationship with them."

And it goes even further up the food chain. Saban gave credit to University President Dr. Robert E. Witt and Athletics Director Mal Moore for participating in the recruiting process. "The University community here does as fine a job as any place I've ever been or ever coached, in terms of John Dever and the academic people contributing from an academic support standpoint, as well as providing academic information about majors and spending their time on weekends to visit with players."

He even credited fans, who follow the Tide zealously, as having an impact on recruiting.

The incoming class includes 11 men who are already enrolled at The University and who will take part in spring practice. They are placekicker Cade Foster, running back Jalston Fowler, defensive back John Fulton, defensive end Brandon Lewis, offensive lineman Chad Lindsay, offensive lineman Darius McKeller, defensive back Demarcus Milliner, defensive lineman Anthony Orr, offensive lineman Austin Shepherd, quarterback Phikllip Sims, and linebacker Petey Smith.

Saban said he was pleased to have the 11 enrolled and said it would "enhance their development." Bama had four early enrollees last year.

"We feel very fortunate that we have quality players here that may impact our team and have given themselves a better chance to impact our team because they're going to be here a semester early. We think that's a real advantage to this class, one of things that maybe gets overlooked a little bit. I think it's something that could help our team quite a bit next year."

Saban said it seems to be a trend for players to come in early. He said there are advantages athletically, academically and socially for those players and that it is an advantage for the team. But he doesn't push it.

"I think it's up to every guy," Saban said. "If players ask me, I tell them, 'It's your choice. You have to make a decision. You have only one senior year. Are you playing another sport? Do you want to be involved in the rest of your senior year? Or are you in a position, for whatever reason, to where you're looking ahead to sort of taking the next step of developing your career, in terms of graduating from school and developing a career off the field and doing the same thing with your athletic career in college? It is strictly up to you and your family.'"

"I don't encourage it or discourage it."

One of the players who enrolled early, quarterback Phillip Sims, said he would be able to go back to his high school for graduation in June. He said he'd miss the prom, "but that's just a party. I can tell you, in college there are a lot of parties."

Saban said the early recruiting is not all because coaches are

starting the procedure. "They are looking at schools and coming to junior days when they are sophomores. We used to get most of the juniors to come to camp and make decisions on them after that. Now they don't want to come to camp before they know if you want them."

That has led to early commitments. It is no longer unusual for much—perhaps most—of the recruiting to be done before the football season begins. As a result, sometimes players who don't develop into prospects until their senior seasons get overlooked.

It has also led to another development. Saban said when a player commits early to Alabama, it makes Bama the target of all other recruiters. "Now every other school keeps recruiting them and they know the kid wants to come to Alabama, so they're bashing Alabama every day. Whether it is taking our depth chart out and saying we have too many players at that position."

"I'm amazed at what other schools know about our team, because I know nothing about their team. And they know more about our team than I know about our team. They get the depth chart out and they know how good players are, guys that haven't even played before, haven't even been on the field, haven't lettered, haven't done anything. It's amazing to me. I'm talking about convincing, being an expert."

"We don't do that. We do not negative recruit in what we do. We have a good product to sell and we try to sell it in a positive way."

Saban also said, "I'm old fashioned. I think a commitment is a commitment. We tell guys when they commit that we want the recruiting to be over or we really don't want you to commit. If you're not really ready to stop recruiting then you aren't really ready to commit, because committing means that you are coming to that school. I would rather you go visit other schools until you're sure that this is what you want to do, rather than make an early commitment and then not feel comfortable and want to go explore other opportunities."

Some facts about Alabama's 2010 signing class:

The 29 players, including 11 mid-year enrollees, come from nine states: Alabama (11), Georgia (7), Tennessee (3), Texas (3), and Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Florida 1 each.

They include six defensive backs, four offensive linemen, four defensive linemen, four linebackers, three wide receivers, two running backs, two tight ends, one quarterback, one athlete, one place-kicker, and one punter.

Among the 29 players are:

Five members of the EA Sports prep All-America team: Adrian Hubbard, Chad Lindsay, Demarcus Milliner, C.J. Mosley, and Phillip Sims

Five players who participated in the U.S. Army All-America Game: Cade Foster, Arie Kouandjio, C.J. Mosley, DeAndrew White, and Jarrick Williams.

Seven players who participated in the Under Armour All-America Game: John Fulton, Alf Hill, Demarcus Milliner, Adrian Hubbard, Chad Lindsay, Phillip Sims, and Brian Vogler.

Three members of the *Parade* magazine prep All-America team: Demarcus Milliner, C.J. Mosley, and Phillip Sims.

Twelve players named to the Scout.com Southeast 150: Demarcus Milliner, John Fulton, Jarrick Williams, Nick Perry, Alf Hill, C.J. Mosley, Corey Grant, Jalston Fowler, Blake Sims, Brian Vogler, Keiwone Malone, and Ronald Carswell.

"We are pleased with the kind of football players that we were able to attract to come to our school this year," Saban said. ■

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CLASS OF 2010 Alabama Crimson Tide

NAME	POS	(SCHOOL) HOMETOWN	HT/WT/40	RANK	Stars
Deion Belue	CB	(Deshler) Tuscumbia	6-0/165/4.3	22	3
<i>One of the fastest signees, he could challenge for immediate playing time on special teams.</i>					
Ronald Carswell	WR	(Westside) Macon, Ga.	6-0/171/4.44	28	4
<i>Excellent route runner and creates separation, may need redshirt season to add weight and strength.</i>					
*Cade Foster	PK	(Carroll) South Lake, Tex.	6-1/215/4.7	3	4
<i>Has a strong leg and is accurate, and comes into a good situation for early playing time.</i>					
*Jalston Fowler	FB	(Vigor) Prichard	6-0/245/4.65	1	4
<i>Big, thick and athletic, he adds his name to a great group of backs in Tuscaloosa.</i>					
*John Fulton	CB	(Manning) Manning, S.C.	6-0/175/4.39	6	4
<i>Great speed and excellent hips, and he is an aggressive player.</i>					
Corey Grant	RB	(Opelika) Opelika	5-9/190/4.4	23	4
<i>One of the fastest players in the class, and has great vision and explosiveness.</i>					
Alfy Hill	DE	(West Brunswick) Shallotte, N.C.	6-4/245/4.6	26	4
<i>A prospect with a lot potential because of speed and athleticism.</i>					
Adrian Hubbard	DE	(Norcross) Norcross, Ga.	6-7/227/4.6	20	4
<i>May have the most upside of any in the class; long, rangy, athletic, and ferocious pass rusher.</i>					
Brandon Ivory	DT	(East) Memphis	6-3/330/5.2	NR	2
<i>Compared to Terrence Cody as a player to plug the middle; powerful and quick.</i>					
Harrison Jones	TE	(Evangelical) Cordova, Tenn.	6-4/225/4.6	24	3
<i>An athletic tight end who could be used as a H-Back; great hands and speed.</i>					
Arie Kouandjio	OT	(DeMatha) Hyattsville, Md.	6-6/320/5.2	29	4
<i>A big lineman who moves extremely well; may need a redshirt season.</i>					
*Brandon Lewis	DT	(East Mississippi JC) Pleasant Grove	6-3/280/4.75	JC	3
<i>Quick off the ball and uses his hands well; could challenge for early playing time.</i>					
*Chad Lindsay	OG	(The Woodlands) The Woodlands, Tex.	6-3/310/5.4	13	3
<i>An aggressive lineman who plays with a mean streak.</i>					
Wilson Love	DT	(Mountain Brook) Mountain Brook	6-4/270/4.7	60	3
<i>Athletic, aggressive defensive lineman, may need redshirt year to recover from broken foot.</i>					
Keiwone Malone	WR	(Mitchell Road) Memphis	5-11/165/4.4	48	3
<i>Dangerous wide receiver can spread the field; may redshirt in order to get thicker and add weight.</i>					
*#Darius McKeller	OG	(Jonesboro) Jonesboro, Ga.	6-6/319/4.9	N/A	N/A
<i>Athletic enough to play on either side of the ball; may redshirt.</i>					
Dequan Menzie	CB	(Copiah-Lincoln JC) Columbus, Ga.	6-0/180/4.4	JC	4
<i>Physical defensive back is great in man-to-man coverage; strong chance for early playing time.</i>					
*Demarcus Milliner	CB	(Stanhope-Elmore) Millbrook	6-1/185/4.35	1	5
<i>Top rated prospect in class has great speed, ball skills and field vision; likely to play early.</i>					
C.J. Mosley	OLB	(Theodore) Theodore	6-3/220/4.6	15	4
<i>Great potential for athletic linebacker who runs well and plays well in pass coverage</i>					
*#Anthony Orr	DT	(Sparkman) Harvest	6-4/270/4.8	N/A	N/A
<i>Athletic defender with a lot of speed may need a redshirt season to improve technique and explosion.</i>					
Nick Perry	S	(Prattville) Prattville	6-2/190/4.5	17	4
<i>Smart and physical, he will have an opportunity to contribute early.</i>					
*Austin Shepherd	OG	(North Gwinnett) Suwanee, Ga.	6-4/310/5.44	25	3
<i>Aggressive run blocker will likely receive a redshirt freshman season.</i>					
Blake Sims	WR	(Gainesville) Gainesville, Ga.	6-0/191/4.56	42	4
<i>Electrifying athlete has potential at several positions and on special teams.</i>					
*Phillip Sims	QB	(Oscar F.Smith) Chesapeake, Va.	6-2/215/4.7	2	5
<i>Great arm, very accurate, but history says a freshman quarterback redshirts.</i>					
*#Petey Smith	MLB	(Armwood) Seffner, Fla.	6-1/245/4.87	N/A	N/A
<i>Physical tackling machine will have opportunity at middle linebacker in spring.</i>					
Brian Vogler	TE	(Brookstone) Columbus, Ga.	6-7/246/4.65	13	3
<i>Big and athletic, he'll be a mismatch for most opponents.</i>					
DeAndrew White	WR	(Northshore) Galena Park, Tex.	6-0/170/4.4	13	4
<i>Fast receiver who can go vertical and makes great catches; may contribute as a freshman.</i>					
Jarrick Williams	S	(Blount) Prichard	6-2/205/4.5	8	4
<i>Vicious tackler, physically impressive, good in pass coverage means early playing time.</i>					
Jay Williams	P	(Thomasville) Thomasville	6-4/220/4.7	6	3
<i>Athlete with a strong leg steps into a situation where a punter is needed.</i>					

*Entered The University of Alabama in January

#Originally signed with Alabama in 2009



Scout

DEION BELUE**Cornerback**

Scout.com Rating: Three-Star
Size: 6-0, 170 pounds
Hometown: Deshler High School
 Tuscumbia, Ala.

Stats: Belue had 56 tackles, three interceptions and eight pass break-ups as a senior. He had 2,129 all-purpose yards with 22 touchdowns. He had five punt returns and three kickoff returns for touchdowns. He added 850 yards rushing with 12 touchdowns. He recorded 70 tackles as a junior in 2008 with four interceptions with two returned for touchdowns. He also returned two punts and one kickoff for touchdowns while hauling in over 800 yards receiving and five touchdowns.

Accolades: Deion Belue was rated the No. 7 player in the state of Alabama by the Tuscaloosa News and was No. 16 in the Mobile Press-Register's Elite 18. He was listed as the No. 21 cornerback in the country by Scout.com. He was a two-time Alabama Sports Writers Association 4A All-State selection, named as a defensive back in 2008 and an athlete in 2009. He was the No. 12 player in the Birmingham News Super Senior postseason rankings. He was selected to compete in the Alabama-Mississippi All-State game but sat out due to injury.

Commit Date: 6/20/09

Recruiting Competition: Auburn

Why Alabama: "What's not to like about Alabama? I liked everything about them. I like the facilities, the campus and the coaching staff. I really enjoyed working with the coaches down at the summer camp. They are some of the best coaches in the country. I thought I made a very good choice by choosing Alabama. I love the chance of playing time down there. I also love the academics down there. It was the best decision for me."

"Coach Saban said he is really looking forward to getting me down there. He is ready to get me in the mix of things. They want me to come in to play cornerback and return kicks. I don't know what Javy's (Javier Arenas) records are, but I am going to chase after it."

"At one point Alabama was recruiting me as a wide receiver. I was then offered as a cornerback. Coach Saban offered me at the position, and that's what he wants me to play. So I am a cornerback."

Recruited by: Wide Receivers Coach Curt Cignetti

Strengths/Improvements: "I am really fast, and I can make a lot of plays happen with the ball in my hands. I need to gain some weight and continue to work on my coverage skills."

Coach Quotes (Deshler Head Coach John Mothershed): "At the next level I see Deion on special teams and as a cornerback. He has great natural instincts. He's got a knack for adjusting his body to the pass, and Deion's a strong hitter who can close in fast on the receiver. He's also a good cover man with exceptional makeup speed. He just needs to get bigger and stronger."

Andrew Bone says: "Belue is an electric playmaker with the ball in his hands. He can make defenders miss when returning kicks and is an aggressive player on the defensive side of the ball. He has excellent ball skills and is truly a gifted athlete."



Scout

RONALD CARSWELL**Wide Receiver**

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 38 Wide Receiver
Size: 6-0, 170 pounds
Hometown: Westside High School
 Macon, Ga.

Stats: Carswell had 41 catches for 714 yards and seven touchdowns for his senior year. He also returned a punt for a touchdown on special teams.

Accolades: Carswell rated a four-star recruit by Scout.com and the No. 38 wide receiver in the country. He ranks as the No. 18 recruit in the state of Georgia by Scout.com. He earned MVP at the Scout.com elite combine in Atlanta, Ga. in the spring of 2008. He ranked as the No. 35 player in the state by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He was a AAAA All-State selection by the AJC and listed as the No. 36 player in the state of Georgia by SuperPrep Magazine. He comes from the same high school as former Alabama cornerback Kareem Jackson.

Commit Date: 4/7/09

Recruiting Competition: East Carolina

Why Alabama: "It's Alabama. They are one of the top programs in the nation. It wasn't going to get any better than Alabama. I like how they play football. They are the biggest team in Alabama. They don't have a pro team. It's all about the Crimson Tide."

Recruited by: Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart

Strengths/Improvement: "I'm really good at running routes. I'm effective with double moves. I give good head fakes, and I can set up defenders really well. Deep comebacks are my best routes. My second best route is the deep out. I think that I'm a wide receiver in college. I really don't see myself lining up inside (slot). I don't see myself as a smaller receiver. I definitely have the ability to play outside (wide receiver)."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Sheddric Risper): "Ronnie's a fast, shifty receiver, who runs great routes and has good hands. He's been a work horse for us. He's really learned a lot as far as understanding the game and as a senior took more of a leadership role on the team."

"We used him at 'Z' receiver, at flanker and at slot to get him in the open field and take advantage of his 4.4 speed. He's amazing after the catch. Most of his yards came after the catch. Ronnie's very consistent catching the football. He doesn't make many drops."

"Alabama made Ronnie feel at home when he was there. Coach Saban and his staff showed interest in Ronnie's future beyond football, and I think that's what stuck with him the most."

Andrew Bone says: "Carswell didn't draw a lot of attention during the spring. Alabama was one of the first schools to see him in action and offered a scholarship. He committed to the Tide before any other schools got involved with his recruitment. Carswell played in a run-oriented offense, but still put up big numbers. He is a great route runner and is very good at creating separation with defensive backs. He comes from the same high school as former Alabama cornerback Kareem Jackson."



Scout

CADE FOSTER

Placekicker

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Size: 6--1, 215 pounds
Hometown: Carroll High School
 Southlake, Texas

Stats: Foster was an outstanding linebacker as well as a kicker. He was 11-of-14 on field goals and 98-percent on PATs. He broke the Texas all-time PAT record for a career; 84-percent of his kickoffs were touch backs. He had 105 tackles, two interceptions and seven sacks from his linebacker position. He made 6-of-8 field goals as a junior in 2008. He hit on 11-of-15 kicks as both a freshman (2006) and a sophomore (2007). He was 38-of-48 field goals during his high school career.

Accolades: He played in the U.S. army All-American game. He was a four-star prospect by Scout.com and was rated the No. 3 kicker in the class of 2010. He was a January enrollee and will participate in spring drills for the Tide. He was a first team APSE Class 5A All-State selection in 2009 and first team TOC Class 5A DFW All-Area Team member. He made a career long of 49 yards on September 27, 2009 against North Shore High School.

Commit Date: 4/27/09

Recruiting Competition: Colorado, Washington

Why Alabama: "It's been a dream of mine to play football for Alabama. I love the tradition, the coaching staff and the facilities. Alabama had everything I wanted in a school."

Recruited by: Wide Receivers Coach Curt Cignetti.

Coach Quotes (Position Coach Larry Hughes): "You can only say good things about Cade, both as a player and as a person. He was a varsity kicker for us for four years. In his freshman year he was on a team that made the state finals, and he did an outstanding job for us right away in his high school career."

"People who saw him in a uniform would never think that was the kicker. He's 6-2, 220 and chiseled. He wanted to play (at linebacker), he's very competitive. Cade's a hard worker. He puts in a lot of time in the weight room which you can see that immediately with him."

"As a kicker, he's got a strong leg. He has very good accuracy. He goes out confident and is meticulous in his approach. If he misses one in a game he'll be working on his kicking the next day until the sun goes down."

"It was all Cade's choice (to attend Alabama). Alabama's getting a bright young man. He's well-mannered, very polite "yes sir, no sir." Everybody around here loves him."

Andrew Bone says: "Foster has a great opportunity to start right away in Tuscaloosa due to the graduation of Leigh Tiffin. He has a big leg, strong, athletic and will knock your head off in kick-off coverage."



Scout

JALSTON FOWLER

Running Back

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Scout.com Rank: Post-Grad
Size: 6-0, 240 pounds
Hometown: Vigor High School
 Prichard

Stats: Fowler missed the 2009 season due to age requirements. He had 139 carries for 1,085 yards with 15 touchdowns during his team's 2008 5A championship season. He caught 27 passes for 391 yards scoring once. Fowler scored three touchdowns and rushed for 169 yards during Vigor's state championship win against Russellville 50-30. Fowler enrolled at Alabama in January.

Accolades: Fowler was rated a four-star recruit by Scout.com. He was a SuperPrep All-American and rated as the No. 9 player in the state. He was the No. 10 player on the Mobile Press-Register's Elite 18 and No. 97 in the Press-Register's Southeast 120. He was the No. 3 player in the Birmingham News Super senior postseason rankings.

Commit Date: 2/14/09

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, South Carolina

Why Alabama: "I talked to my family about my decision. I have a couple of friends up there like B.J. [Scott], and I talk to Julio. They helped me with my decision. It felt like home. Coach Saban wants me to play running back. He thinks I am an all-around back. I can run with power, and I can catch the ball well out of the backfield. He also said they would put me in the slot and throw me the ball."

Recruited by: Former Linebackers Coach (now Texas Tech Defensive Coordinator) James Willis.

Strengths/Improvement: "My speed is pretty good. I play faster in the game. If I break loose, it's going to be hard to catch me. I am continuing to work on my speed and strength."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Kerry Stevenson): "You think of Jerome Bettis with speed. I saw Jerome Bettis running the football, and that is what Jalston looks like. He looks like a big muscle with speed. He is so rangy. He catches the ball well. He can catch the ball out of the backfield. He can run fluid routes. Does a great job adjusting to the ball in the air."

"We ran into Jason Garrett from the Cowboys, and he said he didn't have anyone like him. He is the total package. He needs to mature, but he is a full grown man. He still is a kid. He plays around a lot. His better days are way ahead of him. You haven't seen a football player like he is going to be."

"In the weight room, he works his tail off and on the field. He has the killer instinct. He has a big heart as well. I don't see why Alabama wouldn't put him on offense. He ran a 4.68 in the 40 at the Scout combine a year ago. He is 6-foot, 252-pounds. He is definitely an offensive-minded person. He is going to excel on either side of the ball, but he is an offensive-minded person."

Andrew Bone says: "Fowler is a jumbo athlete who could play several positions. He is tough to tackle and has a lot of speed and quickness for his size. He reminds many of former Alabama fullback and now Pro Bowler Le'Ron McClain. He is a force with the ball in his hands, makes acrobatic catches and makes people miss in the open field."



Scout

JOHN FULTON Cornerback

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 6 Cornerback
Size: 6-0, 180 pounds
Hometown: Manning High School
Manning, S.C.

Stats: Fulton made 48 tackles, eight interceptions, and had 16 pass breakups as a junior. He had six punt or kickoff returns for touchdowns on special teams. Although his numbers were down his senior year due to only playing in six games due to a high ankle sprain and team's throwing away from his side of the field, Fulton pulled down two interceptions and was once again named All-State and helped Manning to a 10-4 record.

Accolades: Fulton was a four-star recruit and No. 6 cornerback in the country by Scout.com. He was rated as a Scout.com National 100 recruit and No. 69 player overall in the country. He is the second player Alabama has signed from the state of South Carolina in the past two years. He enrolled at Alabama in January of 2010. He played in the ESPN Under Armour All-America Game and the North Carolina/South Carolina Shrine Bowl. He was rated No. 23 in the Mobile Press Register's Super Southeast 120. He was the No. 3 player in the state of South Carolina by SuperPrep Magazine. He was the No. 8 defensive back in the country by SuperPrep Magazine and a SuperPrep All-American.

Commit Date: 1/2/10

Recruiting Competition: Florida, LSU, South Carolina

Why Alabama: "Alabama is a home away from home for me. I have a great relationship with the coaching staff. I just loved everything about Alabama. They live football at Alabama. I wanted to be a part of it everyday. I made friends with Mark Ingram and Julio Jones. Mark told me if he could come all the way down from Michigan to play at Alabama then I could come from South Carolina. I feel like Alabama really needed me at cornerback. The coaching staff really made me feel like I was a priority for them."

Recruited by: Running Backs Coach Burton Burns

Strengths/Improvements: "I am a big corner, so I like to play close to the line. I think I am more of a man guy myself. My coaches always tell me that, and I think that is what most college coaches like about me. I can make the interception in coverage or come up and make the big hit against the run. I am big enough that I can play safety or corner too. I think schools like that. I want to continue to work on my back pedal and hips."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Robbie Briggs): "John was a three year starter for us. He made All-State both his junior and senior seasons and doesn't shy away from competition."

"At corner, John's an excellent cover man. He battles in man-to-man coverage. Can stay with his man on a deep ball with his quick backpedal, and he's a ball-hawk with good range."

"At the combines John was clocked at a 4.34. He can cover a lot of ground in a hurry when the ball's in the air with excellent agility and closing speed. He does like to play physical. John is a very, very competitive player."

Fulton grew up in what Briggs called a "structured environment." With John's father a drill Sargent, and his mother, a minister.

"He was a model citizen at Manning," Briggs said of Fulton. "I don't think he was ever involved in any trouble. He's very disciplined and focused."

"We talked about his decision for months. It came down to South Carolina and Alabama with John. I stepped back and gave him space as he and his family consulted on what was best for John. I think Coach Saban did a good job building a good relationship with him."

Andrew Bone says: "Fulton is a very fast defensive back and very physical. He is an aggressive player and has very good recovery speed. He will definitely benefit by enrolling at Alabama in January and has an opportunity to compete right away for early playing time."



Scout

COREY GRANT Running Back

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Size: 5-9, 190 pounds
Hometown: Opelika High School
Opelika

Stats: Grant rushed for 812 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2009 and had 16 receptions for 235 yards and two touchdowns. He rushed for 724 yards and 14 touchdowns his junior season. He averaged 28.4 yards per punt return with two touchdowns.

Accolades: Grant was rated by Scout.com as a four-star recruit and No. 23 running back in the country. He was rated as the No. 10 player in the state by the Tuscaloosa News and No. 7 on the Mobile Press Register's Elite 18 in Alabama. He rated as the No. 71 recruit in the Press Register's Super Southeast 120. He was the No. 11 player in the Birmingham News Super Senior postseason rankings. He was a SuperPrep Magazine All-American. SuperPrep ranked Grant as the No. 6 player in the state and the No. 14 running back in the country. He participated in the Alabama/Mississippi All-Star Classic. He is the two time defending Alabama Class 6A state 100-meter champion and also won the 200-meters in 2009. In 2009 he earned Class 6A honorable mention ASWA All-State honors.

Commit Date: 7/23/09

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma

Why Alabama: "I basically chose the place where I felt the most comfortable. I knew if I took football out of the equation that Alabama was the place I would want to be. Overall it's a great school for me. Alabama really doesn't have anyone like me. They have the big backs, like Mark Ingram and Trent Richardson. I am a smaller back who is explosive with a lot of speed."

Recruited by: Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart

Strengths/Improvements: "I have really good speed, and I can make plays in the open field. I have good vision. I just want to continue to get bigger and stronger."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Brian Blackmon): "I know whatever position Corey ends up playing he is going to give it everything he's got. Someone asked me the other day what really made Corey blow up as a recruit. The speed has always been there for him, but what people didn't realize was he was just as good of a football player."

"He has great instincts and can really see the field. He uses his speed and strength to break arm tackles. He is also a big play threat. He can always improve on his footwork. He sometimes get stiff catching the ball out of the backfield. He has some things like that that he can improve, but I would not consider it a real weakness."

Andrew Bone says: "Grant will bring a lot of speed to Alabama. He could help immediately with kickoff returns or punt returns. He catches the ball well coming out of the backfield and can score from any spot on the field."



ALFY HILL
Outside Linebacker

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Size: 6-4, 245 pounds
Hometown: West Brunswick High School
Shallotte, N.C.

Stats: Hill ended his senior football season with 80 tackles, five forced fumbles, and a fumble returned for a touchdown. He also returned an onside kick attempt for a touchdown.

Accolades: Hill was rated a four-star recruit and No. 26 defensive end in the country by Scout.com. He was a participant in the ESPN Under Armour All-America game. He was a SuperPrep All-American and rated as the No. 20 defensive line prospect in the country. He was rated by SuperPrep as the No. 4 player in the state of North Carolina. He was a first team North Carolina All-State selection in his first year playing football. He is the first player from North Carolina to accept a scholarship offer at Alabama since Jeff Dunn in the 1980s.

Commit Date: 9/9/09

Recruiting Competition: North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia Tech

Why Alabama: "Alabama is a great overall program. I love the tradition they have, and the coaches are great. I was really impressed by them. They really care for their players and have a good bond with them. I really like how they've turned it around and are now one of the best teams."

Recruited by: Linebackers Coach Sal Sunseri

Strengths/Improvements: "I recognize plays well. I'm quick and elusive. I have good speed and am a good pass rusher. But I want to get stronger and work on my upper body. I'm pretty physical, but I want to push off blockers better."

Coach Quotes (West Brunswick head coach Jimmy Fletcher): "His biggest asset is his speed. Being that last season was just his first full year, every snap he gets, he gets better. Alfie needs to continue to learn the game and to play it using his speed."

"His first year was as a freshman, and he was decent, but fantastic he was not. Then he was sidelined all of his sophomore year with an injury. During a workout in the spring, he broke his wrist on a weight power cling. At first we thought he'd just be out for three weeks, but it was healing right and the doctor decided he needed surgery to put a screw in. After the surgery, the doctor just said 'no' and he wasn't cleared to play."

"He really grew up last season (junior year). "He looked OK in practice heading into the season, but in our first three games he was just phenomenal. That's around the time people started to notice him. At the time, he wasn't heavily recruited. Then after the season we sent tapes out to various services, and it was amazing the amount of interest that he's received."

"I think he has the ability to dominate a game by himself."

Andrew Bone says: "Alabama is getting a player has very good speed and can chase down players from behind. He has only played organized football for two years, but has a tremendous upside."



ADRIAN HUBBARD
Defensive End

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 20 Defensive End
Size: 6-7, 227 pounds
Hometown: Norcross High School
Norcross, Ga.

Stats: Hubbard had 102 tackles, 57 tackles for loss and 10 sacks during his senior season. He did not play football as a junior.

Accolades: He was rated a four-star recruit by Scout.com and No. 20 defensive end in the country. He was rated as the No. 11 overall player in the state of Georgia by Scout.com. He was an EA Sports Third-Team All-American and performed in the Under Armour All-America game. He ranked No. 14 in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Top 50 and was No. 48 on the Mobile Press Register's Super Southeast 120.

Commit Date: 12/8/09

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, Clemson, Florida State, Georgia

Why Alabama: "When I took my visit I just felt really good. They made me feel at home. Another big factor was they have my major in Criminal Justice. I kind of knew it was where I wanted to go, and then I took my visit. I met with Coach Saban. I told him I wanted to commit, and he said he didn't have a problem with that. He was ready for me to be a part of the Crimson Tide."

"Alabama did recruit me for the 'Jack' linebacker position. I really like it a lot. I think it's going to be a better fit for me. It gives me a chance to play outside linebacker and rush the quarterback. It gives me a variety of different looks."

Recruited by: Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart.

Strengths/Improvements: "I started as a sophomore over at Peachtree Ridge, but then I transferred. I don't know why I decided not to play my junior year. I feel like my size and speed are my biggest strengths. People underestimate my strength. I could learn more pass rushing moves."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Keith Maloof): "He's 6-7, and he can run. Adrian came in to see me prior to his senior year, and told me he wanted to come out and play. I didn't want it to be a distraction to the team. I went and asked the kids what they thought because many of them knew him and what kind of person he is, and they all said yes. He started out a little rough. Each week he got better and better and became a force at defensive end for us."

"He really did a great job and developed into a role model for some of the younger players by season's end. Adrian has great athleticism. He does all the things well you look for in an elite player. He's quick to get off of his blocker, explosive coming out of his stance, and he has nice bend in his hips that serves him well."

"As a football player he still has growing to do, and it's exciting to think how far he can go with his ability. Adrian's a top student. Often, when I see Adrian he's having fun with a big smile on his face. Let's put it this way, Adrian's never had a bad day."

Andrew Bone says: "Hubbard is a very good athlete who has the frame to support a lot more weight. He is quick off the ball and can chase down the quarterback. He has natural ability with a future in the NFL."



BRANDON IVORY Defensive Tackle

Scout.com Rating: Two-Star
Size: 6-3, 330 pounds
Hometown: East High School
Memphis, Tenn.

Stats: Ivory recorded 66 tackles during his senior season.

Accolades: Brandon Ivory was rated a two-star prospect by Scout.com

Commit Date: 1/28/10

Recruiting Competition: Memphis

Why Alabama: "I think it's one of the best schools in the country. It will be the best school for me. It will help me to be more successful in life. I will have more and better opportunities. I will have a lot of resources to be successful. I had chills down my body when coach Saban offered me. I was happy. I was excited. At that point it was the place where I would like to go. I thought about it a couple days. I talked to Josh Chapman. I figured it would be a great experience to go down there. I think I can do something special down there."

Recruited by: Wide Receivers Coach Curt Cignetti.

Strengths/Improvement: "I would say my natural ability and natural strength are my biggest assets. With my leg power I wouldn't be half as good of a player as I am. I am not just a big benchner, but I can squat a lot. I had a consistent weight program in high school. I would say my quickness and how I move around the ball are strengths as well. I am going to get on a good weight program. I need to get in good with my strength and conditioning program. I am going to take some diet programs. I am going to eat as healthy as I can.

"That is really the only thing Coach Saban told me to work on. He said I am a real good, smart player. He said just change my body, and I could be a great player. That is my main concern. I would like to try to get down to 310-pounds."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Marcus Wimberly): "Brandon is 6-foot-3, 330-pounds. He has very good movement for a guy his size. He was double-teamed, sometimes triple-teamed and usually defeated it. He loves competition. Some of our biggest games he really stepped up. He is a coachable kid. He has a long way to go though. He listens well.

"He is going to do the right thing on the field. He goes 100 per cent. Of course he needs to get in better shape and improve on his core. He is very explosive. He has so much potential. The possibilities are endless."

Andrew Bone says: "Alabama searched to find a true nose guard in its recruiting class and secured Ivory's services. He can eat up a lot of space and create double teams to free linebackers. He is a smart player and has very good quickness off the line."



HARRISON JONES Tight End

Scout.com Rating: Three-Star
Size: 6-4, 235 pounds
Hometown: Evangelical Christian School
Cordova, Tenn.

Stats: Jones recorded 16 receptions for 272 yards and seven touchdowns his senior season. He also rushed for 115 yards as a fullback.

Accolades: Harrison Jones follows his brother Barrett to the University of Alabama where Barrett started at right guard for the 2009 national champions. He is rated a three-star prospect by Scout.com and No. 24 tight end in the country. He is listed by Superprep Magazine as the No. 9 prospect in Tennessee. He earned All-Region and All-State honors from the Tennessee Sports Writers Association. He also participated in the Liberty Bowl All-Star game.

Commit Date: 8/25/09

Recruiting Competition: Florida State, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Vanderbilt

Why Alabama: "I have always been an Alabama fan, following both the football and basketball teams. I was so glad when Coach Saban became the coach at Alabama because I knew he would build a great program to put Alabama back on top like it was for so many years. He is a brilliant coach, and he has a focus and intensity that is unmatched."

Recruited by: Wide Receivers Coach Curt Cignetti.

Strengths/Improvements: "I have pretty good size. When I play at the college level I'll be bigger than I am now. I have good size and ability to move. I have good hands and can catch the football. I want to improve on my blocking."

Coach Quote (Head Coach Jim Heinz): "Harrison is a big kid with a nice frame who can really run. I think his best football days are in front of him. He can easily add 20-25 (pounds) to his frame without losing anything.

"What I'm impressed with is the improvements he's made on his blocking techniques, his ability to catch the football, his leg strength, and his quickness. Harrison is deceptively fast and can get downfield in a hurry.

"He developed really well. By his 10th grade year he was starting for us. I think he's been playing his best football now as a senior. He was hampered early in the year by a hamstring pull. The second half of the year he's really come on strong.

"Harrison was a big part of the tremendous success our team has had this year. We use him at tight end and the H-back. We have him run the ball, or block, sometimes we'll line him up outside.

"There were a lot of schools in the running. I know North Carolina was really recruiting him hard. It was a tough decision because he had so many great schools to choose from.

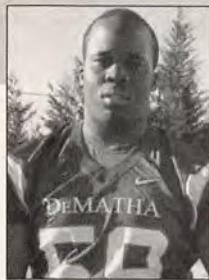
"Harrison loves the great Alabama football tradition and the staff. Sure his brother, Barrett is there, but I don't think that was a major factor in his decision because he has to prove himself on his own merits.

"His Dad played basketball at Alabama, and I think it's always been a part of their family life. The main reason Harrison picked Alabama is that he likes Alabama.

"He's done an excellent job in the classroom, very disciplined student. Harrison's a good kid, a Christian, he knows right from wrong, and wants to give his best. I'm confident in saying you won't see any behavior issues from Harrison when he goes to Alabama.

"He played basketball last year. I've been encouraging him to work on his speed by running track. Hopefully he'll devote some of his time to competing this spring as he starts to prepare himself physically for Alabama's training camp."

Andrew Bone says: "Jones is an excellent pass catching tight end. He can create mis-matches in the passing game. He is athletic and a very smart football player. He is very coachable and continues the family legacy of rolling with the Tide. He follows his brother, Barrett, to Alabama who started at right guard for the 2009 national champions. His father, Rex Jones, played basketball at Alabama (1981-1984)."



Scout

ARIE KOUANDJIO

Offensive Tackle

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Scout.com Ranking: No. 29 Offensive Tackle
Size: 6-6, 330 pounds
Hometown: Dematha Catholic School
Hyattsville, Md.

Stats: Kouandjio recorded 23 pancake blocks during his senior season.

Accolades: Kouandjio was rated a four-star recruit and No. 29 offensive tackle in the country by Scout.com. He was a participant in the U.S. Army All-American game. He was a SuperPrep Magazine All-American and rated as the No. 23 offensive lineman in the country. He was rated as the No. 6 prospect in the Mid-Atlantic by SuperPrep. He was named All-WCAC, All-County, All-Metro from the Washington Post, and All-State in Maryland.

Commit Date: 2/2/09

Recruiting Competition: Cal, Maryland, New Mexico, Southern Cal

Why Alabama: "I love the coaching staff, the support and the fans. I love the environment. I just love everything about Alabama. I have a great relationship with the coaches. I have been talking to them for a long time. It made me feel comfortable with my decision."

Recruited by: Linebackers Coach Sal Sunseri

Strengths/Improvements: "I have athleticism. That is my best strength. I would like become a little bit more athletic though. I am currently 6-foot-5, 320-pounds. I've got a great lower body. I'm pretty strong and quick and feel like my quickness allows me to be ahead of the defensive lineman that line up against me. But I still want to get faster and improve my footwork."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Bill McGregor): "Arie's improved as a player all three years. He's got a strong lower body and gets down low on block, has good feet, and plays with good balance. His best football days are definitely ahead of him. In college he'll probably add a few more pounds and continue to strengthen his upper body. I think he's to develop into a top of the line player at the college level. Arie's a great kid. He makes good grades in the classroom. There just aren't any negatives you can say about Arie."

Andrew Bone says: "Kouandjio is athletic and moves extremely well. He has great footwork and great at getting to the next level. He needs to continue to get stronger and quicker off the line."



Scout

BRANDON LEWIS

Defensive End

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Size: 6-3, 280 pounds
Hometown: East Mississippi Community College
Pleasant Grove

Stats: Lewis finished his career at East Mississippi with 102 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, four sacks, one forced fumble and on fumble recovery. He had 48 tackles, 7.5 tackles for loss and a 2.5 sacks in 2009. He totaled 154 tackles, 30 tackles for loss and 19 sacks in his final two seasons at Pleasant Grove High School. He led his team with 88 tackles, 18 tackles for loss and 12 sacks as a junior. His uncle is Michael Myers is a former Tide player and an 11-year NFL veteran currently on the roster of the Cincinnati Bengals.

Accolades: Lewis was rated the nation's No. 51 JUCO prospect by SuperPrep Magazine. He was rated in high school as the No. 54 defensive end in the country by Scout.com. He was a two-year starter at East Mississippi Community College. He was named 2007 All-State honorable mention by the Alabama Sportswriters Association. He was named to the Mobile Press-Register's 2007 Elite 18 team (No. 15). He was Honorable Mention All-State by the ASWA in 2006. He was named to the Birmingham News All-Metro team in 2006. He was No. 59 player on the Scout.com Southeast 150. He also played in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star game in 2007.

Commit Date: 3/5/07

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, Tennessee

Why Alabama: "I have been an Alabama fan and always wanted to go there. It was a no-brainer for me. I have been wanting to play there my whole life. My uncle, Michael Myers, played there. He was an All-American defensive tackle for Alabama. I have always wanted to play for them."

Recruited by: Defensive Line Coach Bo Davis

Coach Quotes (East Miss. CC Head Coach Buddy Stephens): "He came in and did a very good job for us. He was a starter his freshman and sophomore seasons. In the classroom he did what he needed to do to get into Alabama, which was always his goal. He's just a good, solid football player."

"He works hard on every play, has good hands, which he uses well to get off of blocks. I think he's going to go in to Alabama and right away give depth to their defensive line. Brandon's just a well-mannered, somewhat soft-spoken young man. He's worked hard despite some adversity, and has remained a nice, even-keeled guy. I think he'll do well at Alabama."

Andrew Bone says: "Lewis has a quick first step and shows speed and athleticism coming off the edge. Lewis has a good motor and chases down quarterbacks. He shows good pass rushing skills and uses his hands well. Lewis also has a nice inside move. He plays the run well and moves well down the line."



Scout

CHAD LINDSAY Offensive Lineman

Scout.com Rating: Three-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 13 Offensive Guard
Size: 6-3, 295 pounds
Hometown: The Woodlands High School
The Woodlands, Texas

Stats: Lindsay graded 91-percent for his senior season and had 85 pancake blocks.

Accolades: Lindsay was rated as the No. 13 offensive guard in the country by Scout.com. He was second team EA Sports All-American. He participated in the ESPN Under Armour All-American game in Orlando, Florida. He was ranked as the No. 42 prospect in Texas by SuperPrep Magazine. He was a three year starter. He was named to the 2009 Touchdown Club of Houston All-Greater Houston football team. He was a three-time all-district selection. He was a two-time first-team Texas Football All-State selection in 2008 and 2009.

Commit Date: 4/6/09

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, Georgia, LSU, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Tennessee

Why Alabama: "It just felt right. The campus, coaching staff and whole atmosphere was a big part of my decision. It felt like home to me. I went to LSU and Alabama. I took a step back from football and looked at academics. It just felt better for me at Alabama than it did at LSU.

"The facilities are outstanding. The campus is perfect. The people are great. A place where I would like to go to college the next four to five years. My parents said I couldn't go wrong with any school. They just said whichever feels best. I plan on playing guard. Coach Pendry is a great offensive line coach. He has coached in the NFL. Why wouldn't anyone want to play for him. He is a great coach."

Recruited by: Defensive Line Coach Bo Davis.

Strengths/Improvement: "My main goal was to lose a lot of weight. I was at about 310-pounds last year. This past year I played at about 285-pounds. I am just going to continue to stay in good shape."

Coach Quotes (Jim Rapp, The Woodlands' offensive coordinator): "Chad's a four year letterman. He's been a starter since his sophomore season. He's played really well for us and has improved every year including his senior year. You don't see that very often with players who are already committed to college programs, but Chad played just as hard this year, if not harder. And I can honestly say he's better now than he was at the beginning of his senior year.

"Chad's a tenacious blocker. His goal is to get his guy on the ground. He plays the game with the right attitude with a lot of heart and determination. He has good football smarts, hand placement, and leverage. He played lighter this year. Last year he played at 315, and this year he played at 285. It helped his game a lot with improved agility. I think he felt it was the best fit for him.

"I know he liked Coach (Joe) Pendry a lot and thinks he'll get his best out of him. They want him to play guard, or possibly move over to center. He loves Coach Saban and the atmosphere in Tuscaloosa."

Andrew Bone says: "Lindsay is another nasty road blocker signed for the Crimson Tide. He is a tough, very aggressive player who plays with a mean streak. He has big, strong hands and can dominate his opponent. His father, Duff Lindsay, was an offensive lineman at Mississippi State from 1977-80."



Scout

WILSON LOVE Defensive Tackle

Scout.com Rating: Three-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 61 Defensive Tackle
Size: 6-4, 270 pounds
Hometown: Mountain Brook High School
Mountain Brook

Stats: Love had 94 tackles, 12 sacks, four forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries as a senior.

Accolades: Love was rated a three-star recruit and No. 60 defensive tackle in the country by Scout.com. He was a three-year starter on the defensive line at Mountain Brook High School. He was rated as the No. 25 player in Alabama by SuperPrep Magazine and No. 22 player in the state by Scout.com. He was the No. 22 player in the Tuscaloosa News Top 50 players in Alabama. He was No. 15 in the Birmingham News Super Senior postseason rankings. He was a first-team All-Metro selection and honorable Mention All-State selection.

Commit Date: 4/18/09

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, Clemson, Duke, Stanford, Vanderbilt

Why Alabama: "My brother [Tyler Love] is down at Alabama. I have a lot of friends who go to school there. I have always wanted to go there. I am happy to be a part of it now. I love the tradition down there. I love the coaching staff. I want to have a chance to compete for a national championship. At Alabama that is going to happen."

Recruited by: Alabama linebackers coach Sal Sunseri

Recruited by: Defensive Line Coach Bo Davis.

Strengths/Improvement: "I am really trying to work on my quickness. I have a good first step, but I just want to continue to work on it. I want to get stronger. I want to focus on making good grades as well. People say I am one of the toughest guys, and toughness will get me far. My quickness off the ball is real good. My defensive line coach says I am the quickest guy he has ever coached."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Chris Yeager): "The biggest thing that's impressed me about Wilson is the darn faith he's had in developing his talent. He's got a ton of potential, and he's an extremely hard worker, but also factor in accountability. Wilson challenges his teammates around him to develop to their full potential as well, and that's real leadership.

"There's a big upside to Wilson athletically, but he's been working on the intangibles of his game ever since he was a sophomore. We use him inside on the line in run situations, and on the edge in passing situations to try and get him 1-1 against the tackle.

"He's tenacious and has a mean-streak in him, but I mean that in a good way. When he was a sophomore he used to get into fights with Tyler out there, and he'd win about half of those battles.

"I've had players who commit to schools early, like Wilson did, and then they tend to lose motivation. It seems like it was the best thing for him, like a huge burden was lifted and ever since his commitment he's been all about Mountain Brook football. That speaks a lot about his maturity level. Wilson's probably changed more and matured more than any player I've had. He's been all-business in focusing on becoming the best player he can be."

Andrew Bone says: "Love is the younger brother of Alabama offensive tackle Tyler Love. Wilson is a jumbo athlete who has excelled on the defensive line, but could end up on offense on the next level. He is strong and quick off the line. He has good footwork and a smart player overall."



KEIWONE MALONE

Wide Receiver

Scout.com Rating: Three-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 48 Wide Receiver
Size: 6-1. 165 pounds
Hometown: Mitchell High School
 Memphis, Tenn.

Stats: Malone has been a sensational receiver throughout his high school career accumulating more than 4,000 yards and 57 touchdowns. Malone had 1,377 yards and 26 touchdowns as a senior. Malone has always put up big numbers since becoming a starter at Mitchell in his 10th grade year. He made 70 catches for 1,249 yards and 12 touchdowns as a sophomore. Malone followed up as a junior with 73 grabs for 1,407 yards and 19 touchdowns. He broke the Tennessee state record in 2008 with 358 yards receiving in one game.

Accolades: He was the Tide's first commitment for the 2010 recruiting class. He was a SuperPrep Magazine All-American. He was a three-star prospect according to Scout.com and No. 48 overall wide receiver. He was No. 79 in the Mobile Press-Register's Super Southeast 120 and No. 3 overall prospect from the state of Tennessee by SuperPrep. He was a two-time first team All-State selection.

Commit Date: 2/6/09

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, Tennessee, North Carolina

Why Alabama: "I have always wanted to play in the SEC. Alabama recruited me for a long time. Coach Saban told me I could come in and play on the opposite side of Julio Jones. They don't want me to play in the slot. They want me on the outside. I think Alabama is a great school and feel like I can contribute early."

Recruited by: Wide Receivers Coach Curt Cignetti.

Strengths/Improvement: "I would really like to improve my strength. I am great at catching the ball and running routes. I am a team player. I would like to get my weight up to about 185-pounds. I want to continue to get bigger and stronger. I would like to have the opportunity to contribute early."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Nathan Cole): "He's been mentally stronger and more focused as a senior. He's a team player and has done a good job being a leader on this team. Everybody knows how fast he is. What I like to see is the way he uses his hands to catch the ball and not his body. He's brought in some tough catches this year. He also runs very good routes.

"He's also a very good baseball player. I think he's going to ask Bama if he can play. He's not cocky at all, not the least bit. Keiwone's a very family-oriented person, also very humble. He loves having fun. If you talk to him you'd never know this was someone with a lot of recognition because he's very down-to-earth."

Andrew Bone says: "Malone has excellent hands and great separation speed. He can become a vertical threat for the Tide."



DEQUAN MENZIE

Cornerback

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Size: 6-0, 198 pounds
Hometown: Copiah-Lincoln Junior College
 Wesson, Miss.

Stats: Menzie had 51 tackles, 19 broken-up passes and two interceptions this past season.

Accolades: He was rated as a four-star recruit by Scout.com. He was ranked as the No. 6 junior college prospect in the country by SuperPrep Magazine. He was selected second team All-American by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) after his sophomore year at Copiah-Lincoln where he started for two years. He earned NJCAA All-Region 23 honors and named Most Valuable Defensive Back in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC). He was a first team MACJC All-State selection. He earned AAA Georgia All-State honors from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Georgia Sports Writers Association in 2007 as a senior at Carver High School in Columbus, Ga. He helped lead Carver to the 2007 Georgia AAA State Championship.

Commit Date: 1/31/10

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, Georgia, Ole Miss

Why Alabama: "Alabama is amazing. Alabama has so much going for themselves. It was a great experience. Nick Saban speaking to me and how he and his wife treated me and my mother on the visit. I have never seen my mom so happy, not in a long, long time. That made me happy to make her happy. They were real people over there. Everyone expects Alabama to be stuck up or something, but they are loving and caring and they were there for my mother and treated her like family. They have a great program, and I am excited to be a part of it."

Recruited by: Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart.

Strengths/Improvements: "I am a strong and very physical corner. Coaches have said I have very good size and hips. They really like the fact I am very good in man coverage."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Glen Davis): "Dequan has played great for us as a two year starter. He shows tremendous athleticism on the field with a 40-inch vertical leap. He moves fast, and has a good body to play defensive back at 5-11, 195.

"He really should have been first team All-America. He's ranked ahead of the player who got it in the state, so that didn't make sense to me. He deserved to get it. I have a player's committee which the players vote on. This year, Dequan received the most votes, so he's who is well-respected by his peers.

"He's not the kind of person who's going to embarrass you with off-the-field issues. His mama's done a good job raising him. He's a good, class guy who's quiet and doesn't do a whole lot of talking and has demonstrated quality leadership in a lead-by-example role for this team.

"He's just an excellent athlete who will create match-up problems for whoever he's facing. He's been a player we could count on the past two seasons to cover the other team's best receiver. He's got exceptional ball skills and really makes it difficult on the opposing receiver to make a play."

Andrew Bone says: "Menzie is a physical defensive back who could challenge for playing time immediately in Tuscaloosa. He has very good pass coverage skills and is physical at coming up against the run. He is quick and has good hands."



Scout

DEMARCUS MILLINER Cornerback

Scout.com Rating: Five-Star
Size: 6-1, 180 pounds
Hometown: Stanhope Elmore High School
Millbrook, Ala.

Stats: Milliner made 78 tackles as a senior, three interceptions, 10 pass break-ups, and caused two forced fumbles. He returned one kickoff for a touchdown on special teams. Milliner made five catches on offense for 83 yards and a touchdown, and had 51 carries for 487 yards and seven touchdowns.

Accolades: A five-star prospect by Scout.com and No. 1 cornerback in the country. He was a Parade All-American and first-team EA Sports All-American. He was rated as the No. 16 overall player in the country by Scout.com. He was the No. 1 player in the state according to the Tuscaloosa News and Scout.com. He was the No. 1 prospect in the Mobile Press-Register's Elite 18 and No. 4 in the Super Southeast 120. He was the No. 1 cornerback in the country by Superprep Magazine, a Superprep All-American and No. 1 player in the state. He was the No. 1 player in the state in the Birmingham News Super Senior postseason rankings. He participated in the Under Armour All-America game in Orlando, Fla. and the Alabama/Mississippi All-Star Classic. He earned honorable Mention Class 6A ASWA All-State recognition as a junior and selected as the Area Defensive Player of the Year. He earned Montgomery Advertiser All-Metro honors as a sophomore in 2007.

Commit Date: 6/4/09

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, Georgia, LSU, Oklahoma, Tennessee

Why Alabama: "I love the tradition of the program. I will get a great education at Alabama. I will have a great opportunity for playing time. Those were some of the main reasons I decided to commit to Alabama."

Recruited by: Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart

Strengths and Improvements: "I am really fast, and I play aggressive. I have good closing speed and can cover a lot of ground. I want to continue to improve my skills as a cornerback. I need to work on my back pedal."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Jeff Foshee): "With Demarcus's tremendous God-given ability he can play a variety of positions well. We used him on defense at free safety because he can cover so much ground, and he's a ball hawk. If we had used him at corner they'd just throw it to the other side."

"But I understand why Alabama's looking at him as a corner. They want someone tall, rangy who can run, and Demarcus certainly fits that bill. What's going to make Demarcus a great college corner is his instincts, his feel for the game, his outstanding leaping ability, and his unbelievable speed."

"Demarcus is capable of taking it the distance any time he touches the football. He has so much range that he can cover a large amount of ground, and be dangerous from any part of the field. He's basically the air traffic controller coming out of the defensive backfield. Demarcus can cover receivers and also be a sure tackler as well."

"He's got a lot of good character, he works hard and he has set goals for himself. Demarcus has a goal to be somewhere in five years, and he is working on achieving that goal by being a leader both on and off the football field."

"Several schools were interested in Demarcus. He went to a lot of the camps. I think that he really fell in love with Alabama when he went there. The staff did an excellent job of making him feel at home. But I think he's probably known for some time that's the school where he wanted to be, and he went ahead and gave his commitment to them last summer."

Milliner's father, James, played football at Holtville High School for Sonny Smart, the father of his primary recruiter at Alabama, Kirby Smart. He also has a younger brother, Pat Milliner, who will become one of the state's outstanding seniors in 2010 at Stanhope Elmore.

Andrew Bone says: "Milliner is the No. 1-ranked player in Alabama, and the No. 1-ranked cornerback prospect in the country. He has excellent speed and ball skills. He has great recovery speed and flies to the football."



Scout

C.J. MOSLEY Middle Linebacker

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 15 Outside
Linebacker
Size: 6-3, 220 pounds
Hometown: Theodore High School
Theodore

Stats: Mosley set a school record with 186 tackles as a senior in 2009, breaking the record he set as a junior. He also registered seven sacks, five fumble recoveries and four interceptions as a senior. He made 176 tackles, (115 solo) as a junior in 2008, recording 17 tackles for loss, seven sacks, causing four fumbles, recovering two more and intercepting two passes. He logged 112 tackles, four sacks and one interception as a sophomore in 2007.

Accolades: Mosley is a Parade All-American and U.S. Army All-American. He was second-team EA Sports All-American. He competed in the U.S. Army All-American game and the Alabama/Mississippi All-Star game. He finished as Theodore's all-time leading tackler with more than 500 career tackles. He was a two-time ASWA All-State selection and the Class 6A Lineman of the Year in 2009. He was rated as the No. 3 player in the state by the Tuscaloosa News. He was a Superprep Magazine All-American and rated as the No. 6 linebacker in the nation. He was listed No. 30 on the Mobile Press-Register's Super Southeast 120 and No. 3 on the Alabama Elite 18 list. He was the No. 2 player in the Birmingham News Super Senior postseason rankings.

Commit Date: 1/9/10

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, Clemson, LSU, Stanford, Tennessee

Why Alabama: "I like my chances of starting or at least getting good playing time once I get there. I really like the way Alabama will help me develop from a young man to a man. I felt very comfortable with Alabama. I like where the program is right now, and I feel like I can compete for a starting position once I get there. I love the tradition, facilities and everything Alabama has to offer."

Recruited by: Former Linebackers Coach (now Texas Tech Defensive Coordinator) James Willis.

Strengths/Improvement: "I move good sideline-to-sideline. I can block too, and I play fast. I have good footwork. I want to get stronger and have more power. I'm also working on my endurance to make sure I'm in better shape."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Bill Meredith): "First of all C.J.'s a tremendous person who comes from a strong, supportive family. People ask me what it is that makes him a special football player, and I tell them it's his character that makes him great. It's truly what sets him apart from the rest."

"In the 9th grade C.J. could have been a starter for us. He became a starter for us in the 10th grade and opened a lot of people eyes in the Prattville game where he made 21 tackles."

Mosley recently amassed more than 1,000 points in his career in basketball as a Theodore Bobcat. In track, he's competed in the triple jump, long jump, high jump, and the 100 meter dash. It's that kind of all-around athleticism that propelled Mosley's game on the football field.

"He makes plays sideline-to-sideline. He's fast, strong, has nice long arms and great feet. I think at Alabama he'll play on the inside at linebacker because of his hips and how smart he is. He'll be the man calling the plays like (Rolando) McClain did for them this year. He's just a great football player. They don't get any better."

"When I talk about his character meaning so much to his game I mean you can always count on him. He'll always make good decisions and be on time ready to get better. I've had some players go to the SEC who can run fast and jump well, but they were hard to coach."

"With Mosley every time he sees something he'll get better, and he'll only need to see it once. That's why I expect him to be on the field early at Alabama. He's quick to learn."

"C.J. replied to every piece of mail he received from different schools who were looking at him. We talked about it, and he said he wouldn't commit until he knew for sure. It was a decision he made with his family."

"C.J. was our team leader. He went down early in the (playoff) game with an ankle injury. If we didn't lose him I think we'd have made it to the 3rd or 4th round of the playoffs. That's how much he meant to this team."

Andrew Bone says: "Mosley is a very smart player and has the frame to add more weight. He was recruited to play middle linebacker in Tuscaloosa. He can cover the pass and is very good at coming up against the run. His biggest asset is coverage from sideline-to-sideline."



Scout

NICK PERRY Safety

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Size: 6-2, 195 pounds
Hometown: Prattville High School
Prattville

Stats: Perry had 55 total tackles as a senior with 41 solos, six interceptions, five pass break-ups, two fumble recoveries and scored once on defense. He caught a six-yard pass on offense.

Accolades: Perry was a Scout.com four-star recruit and No. 17 safety in the country. He was a SuperPrep All-American selection. He was rated the No. 29 defensive back in the country and No. 8 overall player in Alabama by SuperPrep Magazine. He was rated as the No. 4 prospect in the state by the Tuscaloosa News. He ranked as the No. 8 player in the state in the Mobile Press-Register's Elite 18 and No. 100 on the Press Register's Super Southeast 120. He was the No. 8 player in the Birmingham News Super Senior postseason rankings. He was named ASWA Class 6A All-State and the Class 6A Back of the Year.

Commit Date: 4/1/09

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, LSU, Oklahoma, Stanford, Vanderbilt

Why Alabama: "I've always wanted to play at Alabama. It's always been a dream school for me. When I first got the offer, I was excited and knew that is where I wanted to be."

Recruited by: Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart

Strengths/Improvements: "I think the best part of what I do is play smart football and read quarterbacks. I think I have great ball skills. I am working on my speed and trying to get my 40-time down."

Coach Quote (Prattville defensive coordinator Bart Sessions): "You don't coach many high school kids with his size, strength and physical ability. He plays the game very fast with great range. You could say he plays long, and he plays tall. He's a sure tackler."

"Last year we used him more as a strong safety coming down hill to stuff the run. This year he's been more like a free safety rolling back in coverage to strike fear in any receiver trying to come across the middle. He's a very versatile player in what he can do."

"First off, Nick's a great young man. He's very smart and has done excellent academically. I think his intelligence has helped him in his understanding of the game."

"We asked Nick to check off on plays with what they're doing as far as formations and personnel. He communicates the adjustments that need to be made to our secondary. This year he's taken on more of a leadership role when as a junior he just went out there and played. He's done a great job. He has a knack in big games to step up and make the big play."

"They (Alabama) did a great job recruiting Nick. That staff has a lot of class."

"I know he wanted to play in the SEC. He was impressed with his visits to Tuscaloosa. When he saw a practice he recognized they run a similar defensive scheme to what we run. It's an aggressive style that I think Nick enjoys playing in. You add in all the great history and tradition at Alabama as well as the first class facilities, it's really the total package, and Nick wanted to be a part of it."

"Prattville takes great pride in maintaining a high academic standard. Nick's very well-read and studious, but really he's just an everyday teenager. You won't see him in any trouble."

Andrew Bone says: "Perry has the size and speed to become an excellent safety at the next level. He is a smart player who plays physical and is great in pass coverage."



Scout

AUSTIN SHEPHERD Offensive Lineman

Scout.com Rating: Three-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 25 Offensive Guard
Size: 6-4, 310 pounds
Hometown: North Gwinnett High School
Suwanee, Ga.

Stats: Shepherd had 104 pancake blocks as a senior.

Accolades: Shepherd enrolled in January and will participate in spring training for the Crimson Tide. He was rated the No. 25 offensive guard in the country by Scout.com and rated a three-star prospect. He ranked as the No. 13 player in the Georgia Top 50 by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He received first-team All-Region 7, first-team All-State and Gwinnett County Offensive Lineman of the Year.

Commit Date: 3/9/09

Recruiting Competition: UAB

Why Alabama: "I fell in love with Alabama when I visited them. I just wanted to make sure, so I took some other visits (UAB, UCF, AU, and FSU). But I felt the same way after that. I knew I wanted to be a part of the Alabama program. I have always wanted to play in the SEC, and Alabama will make me the most successful."

"Coach Pendry has told me with Mike Johnson leaving, he wants to play left guard. That's where he wants to try me at first. I have played every position in high school. I love coach Pendry. He's an awesome guy and a great coach. He's been a very successful coach everywhere he's been. He spent 20 years in the NFL, so he knows what it takes to get there. It's my dream to play in the NFL, and he can get me there."

Recruited by: Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart.

Strengths/Improvement: "I am physical and nasty, and I love to mix it up. I love the trenches, and I love the battle that takes place there. I like to dominate people inside."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Bob Sphire): "Austin's more tactical, physical, more of a mauler. He's more of a drive blocker. Austin's someone you want to run behind in short yardage situations. With his size to go with his quick hands and footwork, he could play either guard or tackle at college."

Andrew Bone says: "Shepherd plays with a mean streak. He is an outstanding run blocker who plays with an attitude. He is an intense player and very good at drive blocking."



BLAKE SIMS Wide Receiver

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 42 Wide Receiver
Size: 6-1, 195 pounds
Hometown: Gainesville High School
Gainesville, Ga.

Stats: A high school quarterback, Sims led his team to the state championship game in 2009. He completed 150-of-254 pass attempts as a senior for 2,288 yards with 28 touchdowns while carrying the ball 115 times for 863 yards (7.5 per carry) and 13 rushing touchdowns. He totaled 3,736 all-purpose yards and 49 total touchdowns. He threw for 2,785 yards as a junior in 2008 while rushing for 822 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Accolades: He was rated a four-star prospect by Scout.com and No. 42 wide receiver in the country. He earned Georgia class AAA All-State honors by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Associated Press. He led Gainesville High School to the state championship game in 2009. He was rated the No. 8 prospect in Georgia by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He was No. 111 on the Mobile Press-Register's Super Southeast 120. He ranked as the No. 43 player in Georgia by SuperPrep Magazine.

Commit Date: 1/16/10

Recruiting Competition: Georgia, Tennessee

Why Alabama: "Alabama just had everything I wanted. They have everything in football, everything in academics, and just everything I need and want in a college. I loved the atmosphere, I loved the way they practiced, I loved how the coaches communicated, and I loved everything about Alabama. It is the perfect fit for me.

"Coach Saban looked at me in the eyes when he was talking to me, and he was honest with me about everything we talked about. I am going to get to wear No. 2 just like I did in high school. They are already starting to call me The Deuce around Alabama, and they compared me to David Palmer. They said I am a little bigger than him, but they want to use me like he was used.

"I just want to play for Coach Saban. I trust him, he trusts me to help his team, and I am Alabama all the way. It is a no-brainer for me to be at Alabama."

Recruited by: Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart

Strengths/Improvement: "I am going to come in as a wide receiver, but I am willing to do whatever I can to help the team win. They already have me in the equation over there for the offense, and they know how they want to use me. I am just going to play where they need me and help them win another National Championship. I know I will compete for the punt return and kick-off return duties as soon as I get there, and I like the way Coach Saban wants to use me."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Bruce Miller): "Blake's done a tremendous job for us. We challenged him to step forward and lead this team, and he's done a terrific job. He's grown up as a player. Blake started for us as a junior. He's the most athletic player I've ever been around. He can do it all.

"He can play anywhere on the field. He's played defensive back here as well, and I think he'll do fine wherever they decide to play him. Blake's that good of an athlete with great instincts and ball skills.

"Blake's a good person. He's trustworthy, fun-loving, just a first class guy. He's improved a whole lot in his school work. The first couple of years were a challenge for him, but he's really stepped up and is focused on getting where he needs to be."

Andrew Bone says: "Sims is a very exciting athlete with the ball in his hands. He is explosive on the offensive side of the ball and can make a lot of plays happen as a field general. He is very versatile and could play on either side of the ball in Tuscaloosa."



PHILLIP SIMS Quarterback

Scout.com Rating: Five-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 2 Quarterback
Size: 6-2, 230 pounds
Hometown: Oscar F. Smith High School
Chesapeake, Va.

Stats: Sims completed 179 passes on 295 attempts for 2,975 yards and 32 touchdowns with nine interceptions as a senior. He had 10,775 yards for his career on 632 completions with 119 touchdowns and 21 interceptions. He holds six state records and was 48-4 as a starting quarterback. He led his team to four district championships, three region championships, one state title and three state final four appearances.

Accolades: Sims was rated a five-star prospect by Scout.com and No. 2 quarterback in the country behind BYU commitment Jake Heaps. He was a Parade Magazine All-America and first-team EA Sports All-American. He was the No. 1 quarterback nationally by SuperPrep Magazine. He was the No. 13 overall player in the country by SuperPrep Magazine. A SuperPrep All-America and top ranked player in Virginia. He earned SuperPrep Magazine's Mid-Atlantic Offensive Player of the Year. He was the No. 36 overall player in the country by Scout.com. He participated in the Under Armour All-America game in Orlando, Fla. He was the 2009 Abe Goldblatt All-Tidewater Player of the Year, a two-time first team All-State selection in Virginia's largest classification. He finished his high school career as Virginia's career leader in passing yards (10,725) and touchdown passes (119) while finishing second in career completions (636). He was 48-4 as a four-year starter, which included a 39-1 record during the regular season. He led his team to the 2008 Virginia Group AAA Division 6 State Championship, four Southeastern District titles and three Eastern Region crowns.

Commit Date: 4/15/09

Recruiting Competition: Clemson, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia Tech, West Virginia

Why Alabama: "I love the environment and the coaching staff. They had everything I wanted in a college. I wanted to go to a school that is going to compete yearly for national championships. Alabama is going to do that. The environment in Tuscaloosa is great. The coaching staff is the best in the country."

Recruited by: Wide Receivers Coach Curt Cignetti.

Strengths/Improvement: "I want to get bigger, stronger, faster and make better decisions. Here are really only certain things you can work on. Scrambling is going to come to you. The main thing is making better reads and improve my touchdown-interception ratio. That is what you work on every off season."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Richard Morgan): "Alabama's getting the total package. Phillip's got the best arm I've ever seen. He's got the best understanding of the game I've ever seen. His mental awareness and pocket presence are second to none. He helps his linemen out with his ability to move around, which you have to be able to do these days in order to be successful with defenses being so fast.

"Phillip's been a starter for us since he was a 14-year old freshman. He's got a lively arm. He's reached the point now that whatever call he makes on any play is usually the right one every single time. He's been playing at a different level.

"The game is going to be quicker at the college level and that's an adjustment he'll have to make. Phillip will need to be patient and let the defense happen. He's a great athlete (4.8 speed in the 40, plus a stand-out on the basketball court) and can make things happen out of the pocket. Another adjustment he'll need to make, but is taking snaps under center, we primarily use the shotgun formation.

"Phillip took an unofficial visit to Alabama and fell in love with it. He felt there was no reason to prolong his recruitment after that because that's where he wanted to be. Phillip wants to play in the SEC, compete for National titles, and be in a pro-style offense.

"Although Alabama has some good quarterbacks in their depth chart, he believes he can compete with those guys and earn early playing time. With Alabama, it seems like a natural fit with Phillip.

"He gets along great with his teachers, never gets into any trouble, comes from a good family. Phillip's quiet, enjoys going to the mall, playing video games, going to the movies, and he lives football.

"Phillip's impact in this community is deeply felt. He's going to be sorely missed."

Andrew Bone says: "Sims is the most decorated quarterback recruit head coach Nick Saban has brought in since his arrival at Alabama. He will compete for the second string role in the spring. He has a very strong arm with accuracy. He has great pocket presence and doesn't make a lot of mistakes."



BRIAN VOGLER Tight End

Scout.com Rating: Three-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 13 tight end
Size: 6-7, 250 pounds
Hometown: Brookstone School
Columbus, Ga.

Stats: Vogler had 14 receptions for 331 yards for the season with six touchdowns. He made 40 tackles (28 solo, eight for a loss), three sacks, and one interception on the defensive side of the ball.

Accolades: He was rated by Scout.com as the No. 13 tight end in the country and a three-star prospect. He was rated No. 62 in the Mobile Press-Register's Super Southeast 120 and No. 38 player in Georgia by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Top 50. He was an All-American by SuperPrep Magazine. He was the No. 9 tight end in the country and No. 15 player in Georgia by SuperPrep Magazine. Vogler participated in the Under Armour All-American game in Orlando. He earned AJC first-team All-State honors as a junior.

Commit Date: 7/22/09

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, Miami, Oklahoma, Tennessee

Why Alabama: "I felt comfortable with Alabama in every way. They have a great program, and I look forward to getting there. I felt at home from the first time I visited Alabama. It's a great family atmosphere."

Recruited by: Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart

Strengths/Improvements: "I have a 'no quit' mentality. I am never going to give up. I need to work on becoming more of a traditional tight end. I have been more of a receiving tight end. I am able to spread the field."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Blair Harrison): "Brian's played for us for three years and has started the last two at tight end. He also played a little defensive end, outside linebacker for us too. There's a tremendous upside to Brian's talent. I've enjoyed coaching him, but I think his best football days are ahead of him."

"He did a good job being an offensive threat as a receiver and an excellent job blocking. The first thing is his size. Excellent height, long arms, and good hands. The next thing is his mind. You see a lot of players out there who see something happen the other team does and not make an adjust. Brian picks those things up right away. I'd say he's probably a receiving tight end, but he does block well, getting out there quickly on running plays to pick up a man."

"He'll probably need to add a few pounds to his frame to be at his most effective as a blocker in college. Coach Saban and Coach Smart did a good job recruiting Brian in telling him what he could do at Alabama. In the end, it was a family decision. I had nothing to do with it."

"Brian's just a pleasure to be around as a person. He doesn't get into trouble, or come to school or practice late. He does everything we ask of him. Throughout all this, with all of the awards and recognition he's received, he's remained humble. He's an amazing kid."

Andrew Bone says: "Vogler is a very athletic prospect who is a huge target. He can make tough catches and still getting used to his big body. He has good balance and can create mis-matches against a lot of linebackers."



DEANDREW WHITE Wide Receiver

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Size: 6-0, 170 pounds
Hometown: North Shore High School
Galena Park, Texas

Stats: White caught 38 passes for 938 yards and 11 touchdowns during his junior season. He made 41 catches for 603 yards and nine touchdowns in 2009.

Accolades: White was rated by Scout.com as the No. 13 wide receiver in the country and a Scout.com National 100 member. He was a U.S. Army All-American and SuperPrep Magazine All-American. He was rated the No. 6 wide receiver in the country by SuperPrep. SuperPrep ranked White as the No. 46 overall prospect in the country and the No. 7 player in the state of Texas. He was the Texas 5A 200-meter dash champion in 2008.

Commit Date: 10/12/09

Recruiting Competition: Florida, LSU, Oklahoma

Why Alabama: "The academics were really important to me. Alabama has a high graduation rate. I watched Julio Jones have an outstanding season last year as a freshman. I noticed that Alabama will play their freshman. That's what I really liked."

"The coaches and players are wonderful. I loved the atmosphere. I didn't want to leave and come back home to Houston. I knew that Alabama was the place for me. I felt at home as soon as I got there."

Recruited by: Defensive Line Coach Bo Davis

Strengths/Improvements: "I have great speed and very good hands. I can make all kinds of catches and can't really be caught. I'm very elusive, but I need to improve my blocking."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach David Aymond): "DeAndrew's a playmaker. Every time he touches the ball he has a chance to take it for six. He's a game changer. When you possess the kind of exceptional speed DeAndrew has, you're going to receive a lot of attention."

"He was the state champion in the 200 meter dash last year as a junior at the top classification (5A) in the state. It's his speed that sets him apart. A lot of players are sure-handed and can run excellent routes, but very few have the kind of breakaway speed of DeAndrew. When you do there'll be a lot of people seeking your services."

"This past season, DeAndrew received a lot of attention from opposing defenses. He came into games as a marked man and was the guy everybody wanted to stop. With that kind of recognition, he'd try to turn every play into a big play."

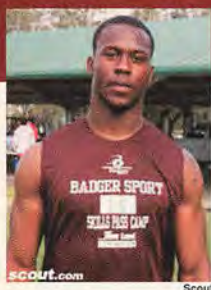
"The recruiting process was going on with a lot of teams coming to look at him. So, I think he put a lot on himself to make things happen instead of letting the game come to him. Those factors worked against him in being able to duplicate the big offensive numbers he had as a junior, but the effort was certainly there and he made several outstanding plays for us in big games."

"I think it's a good union. Coach Saban came in and talked to DeAndrew about academics, what his role would be as a student/athlete representing the Alabama football program. I was very impressed with him."

"Some of the other recruiters made a lot of on-the-field promises about you'd become an All-America and what contracts you'll be signing in a few years at the next level, but Coach Saban didn't talk about any of that. He spoke of building character and becoming a solid citizen and that was the image he wanted for the player's of his program. I think that made a big impression on DeAndrew, who had already heard many other coaches' best pitch to go to their school."

"He's a good person who everybody likes. He doesn't have an over-inflated ego and has shown good character. As a player, he was very coachable."

Andrew Bone says: "White enters as one of the fastest players in the Tide's recruiting class. He is a game changer and a go-to type player. He makes difficult catches look easy and can make defenders miss. He has the athletic ability to compete for early playing time in Tuscaloosa."



JARRICK WILLIAMS Safety

Scout.com Rating: Four-Star
Size: 6-2, 205 pounds
Hometown: Blount High School
Prichard, Ala.

Stats: Williams had 75 total tackles as a senior with 41 solo, three tackles for a loss, two fumble recoveries, six pass breakups and five interceptions. Williams played in nine games as a junior. He 94 tackles, one tackle for a loss, two forced fumbles, eight pass break-ups, two interceptions and blocked a field goal attempt. He added nine passes for 206 yards and four touchdowns. Williams had approximately 200 yards receiving and four touchdowns.

Accolades: He is rated as a four-star recruit and No. 8 safety in the country by Scout.com. He is a Scout.com National 100 recruit. He participated in the U.S. Army All-American game and the Alabama/Mississippi All-Star game. He is rated the No. 2 player in Alabama by SuperPrep and Scout.com. He is rated the No. 2 player in the state of Alabama by the Tuscaloosa News. He is the No. 2 player on the Mobile Press-Register's Elite 18 and No. 27 in the Press Register's Super Southeast 120. He was a 2009 ASWA Class 6A All-State selection. He earned Class 6A honorable mention All-State as a junior.

Commit Date: 6/26/09

Recruiting Competition: Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Florida State, LSU, Oklahoma

Why Alabama: "Bama was the only place that I visited that made me feel like home. The people they have up there are real cool. They have real good people, and they show you love. They have a real good program. They have good academics and study halls. They have a real nice campus. The facilities are real nice. I like everything about Alabama. I feel real good about getting up there and playing in that defense. I'm ready to get there right now."

"I really like coach Nick Saban. I like how he'll do whatever he can to win and make you a success."

Recruited by: Former Linebackers Coach (now Texas Tech Defensive Coordinator) James Willis

Strengths/Improvements: "I feel like I am great at tackling. That is my biggest strength. I am trying to improve on my play-action pass. I read the field good and can cover real good too. My style is all about tackling and making big plays."

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Kelvin Sigler): "Jarrick's a tremendous athlete. He loves the game, plays very physical and aggressive. Jarrick's done a great job for us. He does what we ask him to do. He has all the skills you look for and a good knowledge of the game seems to come naturally to him."

"He's got a solid all-around game on run support, pass coverage, and he's been a leader for us on the field. He doesn't say much, but leads by example. The kids look up to him and watch what he does and rally around his enthusiasm."

"When he gets to the next level, he'll need to understand that everybody's just as fast as he is. That will take some adjusting to at first. He needs to keep studying film, and continue to improve to taking the correct angles on tackling. Once he gets that down he should be a fun player to watch."

Andrew Bone says: "Williams is one of the top defensive prospects in the nation. The Scout.com National 100 recruit is a physical specimen and a ferocious tackler on defense who has great ball skills. He can cover smaller receivers and has the speed to make up a lot of ground. He is the type of player who can make an immediate impact."



JAY WILLIAMS Punter

Scout.com Rating: Three-Star
Scout.com Rank: No. 6 punter
Size: 6-4, 225 pounds
Hometown: Thomasville High School
Thomasville

Stats: Williams is rated the No. 6 punter in the country by Scout.com. Williams had 22 punts for 38-yard average as a junior. He had 10-of-22 punts downed inside the 20. He averaged 48 yards per punt. Williams punted 25 times this past season for 931 yards for a 37.2 average. His long was 62 yards with two touchbacks. Williams made four catches for 86 yards and a touchdown.

Accolades: Williams is rated as a three-star recruit and No. 6 punter in the country by Scout.com. He was a PrepStar All-Southeast selection

Commit Date: 6/20/09

Recruiting Competition: Florida, Houston

Why Alabama: "I felt like I would have more support from my family and friends if I went to Alabama. My uncles and everyone could come see me play. My whole family are big Alabama fans. That is where I wanted to go my whole life. I went to Alabama and loved what they have to offer in academics."

Recruited by: Running Backs Coach Burton Burns

Coach Quotes (Head Coach Jack Hankins): "As a punter he gets such a high distance on his ball. I can't tell you his hang time, but I can tell you none of his punts were returned. They either called fair catch or let them roll down the field. He's got a big upside, and I think that's what Coach Saban and his staff saw from Jay. He's going to continue to develop. He's a dynamic talent whose best football days are ahead of him."

"The first thing I should tell you about Jay is that he's just a great young man of high character. Academically he's done a phenomenal job in the classroom maintaining an A-average. He a smart guy, conscientious, and a hard worker."

"We don't get many kids with the kind of athleticism Jay has. We lined him up at the wing, or H-back, which is a blocking tight end. Jay's a very physical blocker. He graded at 85-percent blocking for us. When you normally think of a punter you don't think of someone who's exceptionally gifted athletically, but Jay is. He's a strong kid too, squats in the 300s."

"Jay's from Alabama, and from an Alabama family, so I think that's where he really wanted to go. Florida wanted him badly, and he hadn't heard anything from the Alabama coaches at that time. So I said I'd call the special teams coach at Alabama and just to see what would happen. They fell in love with Jay and wanted him to go kick for them. Soon after that he accepted their offer."

Andrew Bone says: "Williams is an athletic prospect with a very big leg. He has great hang time on his kicks as well. Williams has the opportunity to compete right away in Tuscaloosa with the graduation of P.J. Fitzgerald."

The Rest Of The Story

There's more to signing class than meets the eye

The University of Alabama signed the No. 4 recruiting class in the country as ranked by Scout.com. The Crimson Tide filled several positions of need in the 2010 class and landed the majority of top targets. But there is more to the recruiting story than just the final list of young men attracted from high schools and junior colleges.

This signing class included three men who needed no introduction. They had signed originally in the class of 2009, but delayed enrollment as fulltime students until this spring semester and re-signed with the class of 2010.

This is the relatively new category of signees known as grayshirts. Although they are a year and a half out of high school, they have the opportunity to participate in the off-season program and in spring practice, and then will have five years in which to complete four years of eligibility.

Bama's three grayshirts are middle linebacker Petey Smith (6-1, 245 from Armwood High in the Tampa area), lineman Darius McKeller (6-3, 319, Jonesboro, Georgia), and defensive end Anthony Orr (6-4, 270 from Sparkman High in Madison).

McKeller is a very athletic prospect who could play on either side of the ball. Smith is a tackling machine who registered more than 400 tackles in his high school career. He also participated in the Under Armour All-America game as a senior in high school. Orr has a lot of potential. He is athletic and possesses a lot of speed for his size.

Alabama will need immediate help on special teams with the graduations of kicker Leigh Tiffin and punter P.J. Fitzgerald. The Tide signed Cade Foster, Scout.com four-star kicker from Southlake Carroll, Texas, and Jay Williams, Scout.com three-star punter from Thomasville. The Crimson Tide also expects a walk-on kicker in the fall, Christian Kauffman from Memphis-University School.

Also expected to walk on is 5-10, 175-pound cornerback Caleb Castille of Birmingham Briarwood Christian. Caleb is the son of former Bama All-America cornerback Jeremiah Castille and the brother of former Tiders fullback Tim and cornerback Simeon.

Ask Alabama Coach Nick Saban if he has finished recruiting, and his answer would probably be that he is never finished. Before the FAX machine in the athletics department started humming on Signing Day, February 3, Saban and his staff had already hosted one Junior Day (in which upcoming seniors have unofficial visits) and were planning another one.

Alabama has gotten off to a good start on the 2011 class with two outstanding early commitments. Marvin Shinn, a 6-3, 170-pound wide receiver from Vigor High School in Prichard, announced for the Crimson Tide last April. Brent Calloway, a 6-3, 210-pound



Darius McKeller



Anthony Orr



Petey Smith

outside linebacker from Russellville, committed to Bama last June. Both are ranked as four-star athletes by Scout.com.

Alabama did miss out on a few players with the biggest loss of the recruiting season with Keenan Allen, Scout.com five-star safety from Greensboro-Northern Guilford, N.C.

Allen was a solid commitment to Alabama until

former Buffalo Coach Turner Gill accepted the head coaching job at Kansas. Zach Maynard, Allen's half-brother, was the quarterback at Buffalo who was granted a release when Gill departed. Maynard and his family and a "handler" started looking for a package deal which included Allen. The two (along with some other former high school teammates) signed with Cal.

JaWuan James, Scout.com four-star offensive tackle from North Gwinnett High School in Suwanee, Ga., also de-committed from Alabama and committed Tennessee when Lane Kiffin was still in Knoxville. James went home for a couple of days, after he had enrolled early in January, when Kiffin bolted for USC. The sitting out a year transfer rule would likely apply if James decided on another school. He returned to Knoxville.

Shon Coleman, Scout.com four-star offensive tackle from Olive Branch High School in Miss., signed with Auburn. Coleman was committed to the Tigers, but gave a serious look at Alabama and took an official visit to Tuscaloosa in January.

James Stone, Scout.com three-star offensive tackle from Maplewood High School in Nashville, Tenn., signed with Tennessee. He was considered an Alabama lean during the recruiting year, but Stone wanted to stay in-state and play for newly hired head coach Derek Dooley.

Spencer Region, offensive guard from Cullman, Ala., gave a private commitment to the University of Alabama a week after Signing Day and reconfirmed his commitment to the Tide a few days later. Region then surprised more than 100 spectators, most in Alabama attire, when he announced his de-commitment and commitment to Auburn.

"After a sudden change of events I am officially de-committing from Alabama and giving my commitment to Auburn," said Region. "A few things have happened in the last couple of hours I am not at liberty to talk about, but I am happy to be an Auburn Tiger."

He said he had a conversation with an Auburn coach shortly before making his switch.

Region will also take a look around at other schools who may have his best interest at heart before signing day in February of 2011. He said he intends to take some visits. ■

A Kick From Recruiting

A dozen new players expected to have impact

When the spring semester got underway at The University of Alabama, Crimson Tide Soccer Coach Todd Bramble had made significant improvement with four new players coming aboard. When national signing day (the same as for football) was completed, Bramble had added eight more players, for an even dozen who will join the Tide for fall play. The class is comprised of players for each position.

"This talented and diverse group of student athletes has the opportunity to come in and have an immediate impact on the Alabama soccer program," Bramble said. "Not only is this group diverse in that they come from all over the nation, but in the skill sets that they bring to the program."

On campus for the spring semester are sisters K.K. and Meghan Duffy, Alex Russell and Ellie Smith. The Duffys and Russell are transfer students, while Smith is a freshman.

Bramble said, "Adding this group of players to our squad certainly made for an interesting and exciting Christmas break. We are equally excited to have added the transfer students as all three are known commodities to our staff."

Here's a look at the four who will be on campus for spring work:

K.K. Duffy comes to The Capstone after starting every game of her career at Clemson on the backline. Duffy started in a total 35 games and has three assists to her credit. She will enter the 2010 season as a junior in eligibility. She played for Coach Sergio Stadler at the Marist School and helped lead her team to a AAAA state championship in 2008.

Her sister Meghan comes to Alabama. She also played in the defensive third for the Tigers, appearing in three games as a freshman. A graduate of the Marist School, she helped her team win the 2008 Georgia state title. As a member of the War Eagles squad, Duffy earned second-team All-Area/City Team honors in 2008.

Russell comes to Tuscaloosa and returns to her home state after playing in 14 games as a freshman and one as a sophomore at SMU in the backfield. Russell started in eight games as a newcomer for the Mustangs and tallied one goal. She attended Mountain Brook High School in Birmingham where she led the Spartans to a perfect 23-0 record and the 6A state championship.

Smith enrolled at Alabama after earning her high school diploma following her fall semester at Bradenton (Florida) Preparatory Academy. Smith, a forward from Miami, played four years for the IMG Soccer Academy and six with the CESA' 92 Premier club. In 2009 she was named the Region III Premier League U-17 top scorer.

Here's a look at signees who will join the Crimson Tide in August:

Ariel Armijo of Littleton, Colorado, played for three-time state champion Mullen High School. The National Honor Society student also played for Coach Neil Payne for Colorado Real National and was named a Topdrawersoccer.com Player To Watch. Her reputation is as a defensive player.

Molly Atherton was an attacker under Coach Christopher Pryor at Gulfport (Mississippi) High School. She recorded 101 goals and 41 assists through January, 28 and is a two-time all-state honoree. She was player of the year for the coast region. The National Honor Society student (and president of the Physics Club) led her team to the 2008 state championship and into the finals last year. She has played club soccer for nine years and is currently with Birmingham United 92 Elite under Coach Andrew Bower.

Shanna Brooks, a two-sport athlete (soccer and basketball) at Oak Mountain High School in Birmingham, is a seven-year veteran of Bower's Birmingham United 92 Elite team. The two-time all-state honoree goalkeeper helped her team to state championships in 2004, 2008 and 2009. She was recipient of the Coach's Leadership Award and a two-time captain of her basketball team.

Emily Cox was a three-year starting goalkeeper at St. Pius X Catholic School in Decatur, Georgia, where she amassed a 57-6-2 record. The 2009 team went 22-0 with 19 shutouts en route to the state championship. Her team was state runner-up in 2008. She has played for GSA Phoenix Red 92 for Coach Campbell Chapman for six years.

Theresa Diederich is a four-year letter-winner at Episcopal High School in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. She tallied 81 career goals and 61 assists going into her senior season this spring. The all-state honoree was team MVP as a junior. She also lettered in track and field. She has eight years for the Ponte Vedra Storm under Louis Torres and was a member of the state championship team that reached the national finals last year. ... member of 2009 State Championship team ... helped lead team to the 2009 National Finals.

Kendall Khanna attended Mullen High School in Littleton, Colorado, where she played for Coach Amy Estes and helped her team to the 2007 state championship. She has won numerous leadership awards, as well as soccer honors. She played four years for Coach Erik Bushey on the Nike Rush. She is an attacking player.

Courtney Pixler is a four-year letterwinner under Coach Chuck Kriebel at Eastlake High School in Sammamish, Washington. She was all-state in 2008 and 2009 and second team in 2007. Her team's most valuable defender, she led Eastlake to three playoff appearances and the 2007 state championship. She has a 3.9 grade point average. She played eight years for Crossfire Premier 91 under Coach Dick McCormick and her club team won five state championships between 2003 and 2009.

Jewelina Strickland player for Whitewater (Georgia) High School under Coach Heather Allen and was a four-year starter on teams that have won one state championship and had one runner-up finish. She scored three of her teams five goals in the two state championship games. The National Honor Society student was a two-time all-state honoree. She played eight years for AFC Lightning under Coach Andy Thompson and was five-time team captain. Her team was ranked first in the nation from December, 2008, to July, 2009, and she was a Top Drawer player to watch. ■

Construction Zone

Much building needed to win another title

It was Signing Day, about a month and a half before Alabama was to begin spring football practice on March 12, but Nick Saban was giving some thought to the players who will be involved as the Crimson Tide goes for a second consecutive national championship in the 2010 season.

Saban had spent three greeting returning players in his office, a few minutes with each man.

"I love having relationships with players," Saban said. He said he enjoyed the pre-spring one-on-ones with the Crimson Tide players because under ordinary circumstances "I only get to meet with the bad guys. They have a feeling like they are coming to the principal's office. I never get to talk to the good guys. But I got to talk to a lot of good guys the last couple of days and that was very enjoyable for me."

The 15 days of spring football practice will end with the A-Day Game at Bryant-Denny Stadium on Saturday, April 17. After the start on March 12, the Tide was to have an interruption for The University's spring break, returning to the practice field March 22.

After the celebration of the national title, attention turned to recruiting, and Saban's staff came through with another outstanding group of signees. The Tide head coach pointed out that recruiting is part of the battle. The next job is "how you develop the players once they get to your team."

Spring football practice is one of the elements in that development.

Is this a rebuilding year for Bama? Because every team is different, it fairly can be said that every season is a building year. In the case of Alabama, which has the mantle of national champion



Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram returns for Tide

Stuart McNair

and may have the target of pre-season number one, there are many fine players to replace. Bama lost five of the six men who earned first team All-America last year. The Crimson Tide will have to replace nine starters (ten including the number one nickel back) on defense and all of the specialists on special teams.

But Nick Saban knew he would have to have a football team in 2010, and he will have men in place for the task.

While it's interesting mental exercise to speculate on which is the most important spot to fill, Saban doesn't have that luxury. Football is a team game. He's got to fill them all. And build depth.

The task began with the off-season program, then spring practice and summer work, when almost all signees will be in Tuscaloosa. The team building will continue through fall camp next August.

And then, hopefully, everything will be ready for San Jose State in front of over 101,000 in Bryant-Denny Stadium on September 4.

OFFENSE

Most college football teams would be happy to start the rebuilding process with the returning Heisman Trophy winner, and Alabama has tailback Mark Ingram on which to build around. Moreover, Trent Richardson proved in his freshman year that he is a quality back. Redshirt freshman Eddie Lacy hasn't been seen except by practice observers, who give him high marks. Spring practice will include looking at freshman

Jalston Fowler at running back as Fowler is one of 11 signees practicing with Bama this spring.

The most important player on the football field is the quarterback, and Alabama's spring includes having the Most Valuable Player in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game, Greg McElroy, back at quarterback. McElroy, who hopes to be a Rhodes Scholar following this senior season, continues his record of having never lost a game in high school or college in which he was the starting quarterback.

One surprise during practice for the National Championship Game was Saban's revelation that redshirt freshman A.J. McCarron had moved ahead of soph Star Jackson for the back-up job. (Jackson remains at Alabama, but it is reasonable to expect him to evaluate his position following spring practice.) Also in the mix this spring will be true freshman Phillip Sims.

Alabama's offense also returns a potentially outstanding receiving corps, led by Julio Jones and also featuring Darius Hanks and Marquis Maze. A handful of others have experience and a few newcomers—redshirt freshmen Kendall Kelly, Kevin Norwood and Kenny Bell—have potential.

Alabama had Colin Peek for only one season, but it was an outstanding season for the tight end transfer from Georgia Tech. Peek was both a big, strong blocker and a fine route-runner and receiver. Alabama uses tight ends both in the traditional on-the-line position and also as H-backs or fullbacks. Michael Williams, a 6-6, 266-pound sophomore, most fits the Peek mold. Other leading candidates are Preston Dial, who emerged as the top man at H-Back last season, and Brad Smelley, a 6-3 junior who is attempting to add weight and muscle to his 233-pound frame.

Alabama's offensive line problem is less severe than it seemed at this time last year. The 2009 Crimson Tide had to replace All-America players at what are considered to be the most important offensive line positions, left tackle and center. This year Bama returns left tackle James Carpenter and center William Vlachos, and for good measure also returns right guard Barrett Jones, who was a Freshman All-America. The Tide will be looking for replacements at left guard, where Mike Johnson was an All-America, and right tackle, where Drew Davis was a two-year starter.

It's folly to guess at which players veteran Offensive Line Coach Joe Pendry will fit into the slots, but his history insists he will have a good front.

Brian Motley and Taylor Pharr have been around for several years. John Michael Boswell was considered a strong candidate to win a starting job in 2009 based on his freshman year, but continued in a back-up role. Tyler Love has begun to make strides. Alfred McCullough is an athletic player who was first back-up at both left and right tackle last fall. David Ross is the back-up center, but can also play guard. (A Pendry trademark is that offensive linemen learn to play several positions.)

Chance Warmack came in as a true freshman for spring practice last year and did well. Darius McKeller got a late start as a freshman last fall as he recuperated from an injury and he and Kellen Williams are redshirt freshmen this year. One of the most anticipated redshirt freshmen of recent memory is massive tackle D.J. Fluker, who was said to have reported at close to 400 pounds and who has now shed down into the mere 350 range.



Marcell Dareus expected to be leader on defensive line

Stuart McNair

In discussion of the scout team last fall, Saban said that redshirt freshman Anthony Steen had been a standout.

Chad Lindsay and Austin Shepherd are true freshmen who entered The University this semester.

DEFENSE

There is some comfort in having a defensive whiz such as Nick Saban as head coach this year as Bama must find numerous new players on defense.

Alabama had the Heisman Trophy winner as the nation's best college football player in Mark Ingram, and many believe he wasn't even the Tide's best player.

Unquestionably, Rolando McClain was Alabama's best defensive player, winner of the Butkus Award as the nation's best linebacker. He's headed for the NFL, foregoing his senior season of football. Also absent from Alabama's starting linebacker corps are seniors Cory Reamer (strongside) and Eryk Anders (jack). Nico Johnson, an upcoming sophomore, returns at weakside linebacker.

Dont'a Hightower was a Freshman All-America at weakside

linebacker in 2008, but was lost for the season after suffering a knee injury against Arkansas last fall. He is expected to return for the 2010 season, and is generally considered to be McClain's replacement, but Hightower is recovering from his surgery and will be very limited—no contact—this spring. Last spring Bama experimented with Hightower at an outside spot, and he was very effective as a pass rusher.

Bama has some linebackers with experience who can be expected to challenge for starting positions. Courtney Upshaw will be a top candidate at an outside (strongside or jack) position, as will Jarrell Harris and Chavis Williams. Jonathan Atchison and Ed Stinson are redshirt freshmen listed as outside linebackers.

Chris Jordan saw inside linebacker playing time last year. Tana Patrick is a redshirt freshman who will get a look inside. Petey Smith, a 2009 grayshirt who will participate this spring, is an inside linebacker.

Linebacker isn't the only spot on defense where Alabama lost three starters. On the three-man defensive line, all three listed starters were seniors. The Tide must replace Lorenzo Washington and Brandon Deaderick at ends and All-America nose tackle Terrence Cody.

End Marcell Dareus, defensive MVP in the BCS game, is a good start in rebuilding the front. Damien Square, according to Saban, was going to be big in Bama's plans before he was injured early last season. He's expected back for work in spring drills. A trio of Louisiana products, senior Luther Davis and redshirt freshmen Darrington Sentimore and Chris Bonds are end candidates, as is redshirt freshman William Ming. Senior Milton Talbert and junior Glen Harbin have very little experience.

There may not be another Cody for awhile. At nose tackle there are those with experience, notably strongman Josh Chapman. Kerry Murphy didn't get much playing time last year, but showed he can be a force on the defensive line. Brandon Lewis, Nick Gentry and Brandon Moore are other candidates.

In the four-man secondary, three starters (All-America Javier Arenas and Justin Woodall, seniors, and Kareem Jackson, who is trying his hand at the NFL draft following his junior year) must be replaced. Most of the time Alabama played in the nickel defense with five defensive backs. That means four starting secondary players are going to be absent since 2009 senior Marquis Johnson was the nickel. Safety Mark Barron is the lone returnee.

There's a reason Alabama signed a large number of defensive backs in February, but the work of rebuilding the defensive backfield can't wait on all of those newcomers. A couple—Demarcus Milliner and John Fulton—are going to be taking part in spring practice and competing at cornerback.

Top returning cornerbacks are expected to be former wide receiver B.J. Scott, who took a redshirt season in 2009 while moving over to defense, and Dre Kirkpatrick, who got most of his playing



Julio Jones could be involved as kick return man.

Stuart McNeil

time on special teams as a true freshman last season. Phelon Jones, a transfer from LSU, will be eligible this year.

In addition to Barron, the safety candidates include Rod Woodson, Robert Lester, and Wesley Neighbors. If Robby Green is reinstated from an indefinite suspension, he could be at safety or cornerback in the fall.

There's a good chance the rotation in the secondary won't be settled until the likes of junior college transfer Dequan Menzie arrive in the summer.

SPECIAL TEAMS

There's a story told about a former Alabama baseball star who went on to a major league career, and upon retiring from baseball opened a store in Tuscaloosa. A friend of his, a banker, agreed to do the bookkeeping, stopping in the store after hours to mark the daily transactions. The problem was, the player-turned-shopkeeper often had the need of a few dollars, which he lifted from the till before leaving. The banker told him to at least leave a note saying how much he took so the books could be balanced. One afternoon the banker opened the cash drawer and found only a note:

"I took it all."

That seems to be what happened to Alabama's kicking teams.

Special teams gets a complete make-over. Bama lost punter P.J. Fitzgerald, who was also the holder on placekicks; All-America placekicker Leigh Tiffin; snapper Brian Selman; and return ace Javier Arenas, also an All-America and all-time SEC punt return leader.

Saban historically does more work on special teams in spring training than many coaches. Nevertheless, it is realistic to believe that many components of special teams will be installed during August camp.

Alabama signed a placekicker, Cade Foster, who entered The University this spring. He's battling some current walk-ons and at least one more is expected to arrive in August.

The Tide also signed a punter, Jay Williams, who will arrive this summer. Some walk-on competition can be expected for this job, too.

The holder is usually selected by the placekicker. It is helpful if it is the punter is the holder since all kickers work together during practice.

Carson Tinker has been the back-up snapper for several years and it may be his time to get the job.

Others on special teams, including return men, protection players, and coverage players will be pieced together. Alabama was already a fast team and, as Saban pointed out, much speed was added with the current signing class. Speed is a critical factor in coverage and returns.

Although it may not get final attention until fall camp, one weakness of the national championship team was kickoff coverage. ■

Alabama Pre-Spring Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name, Pos.	Cl	Ht	Wt	Exp	Hometown	No.	Name, Pos.	Cl	Ht	Wt	Exp	Hometown
82	Earl Alexander, WR	Sr	6-4	212	2L	Phenix City	33	Mike Marrow, TE	Fr	6-2	240	RS	Holland, Ohio
49	Jonathan Atchison, LB	Fr	6-2	220	RS	Atlanta	4	Marquis Maze, WR	Jr	5-10	179	2L	Birmingham
4	Mark Barron, S	Jr	6-2	214	2L	Mobile	10	A.J. McCarron, QB	Fr	6-4	190	RS	Mobile
7	Kenny Bell, WR	Fr	6-1	160	RS	Rayville, La.	52	Alfred McCullough, OL	Jr	6-2	305	1L	Athens
86	Undra Billingsley, TE	So	6-2	276	Sq	Birmingham	12	Greg McElroy, QB	Sr	6-3	220	2L	Southlake, Texas
93	Chris Bonds, DL	Fr	6-4	280	RS	Columbia, S.C.	XX	*DeMarcus Milliner, CB	Fr	6-1	175	HS	Millbrook
67	John Michael Boswell, OL	Jr	6-5	306	2L	Northport	56	William Ming, DL	Fr	6-3	260	RS	Athens
88	Michael Bowman, WR	So	6-4	210	Sq	Roswell, Ga.	59	Brandon Moore, DL	Fr	6-5	310	RS	Montgomery
87	Drew Bullard, LB	Sr	6-3	238	Sq	Florence	66	Brian Motley, OL	Sr	6-3	291	3L	Autaugaville
77	James Carpenter, LT	Sr	6-5	300	1L	Augusta, Ga.	64	Kerry Murphy, DL	So	6-4	323	1L	Hoover
99	Josh Chapman, DL	Jr	6-1	313	2L	Hoover	46	Wesley Neighbors, S	Jr	6-1	210	Sq	Huntsville
57	Marcell Darius, DL	Jr	6-4	296	2L	Birmingham	83	Kevin Norwood, WR	Fr	6-2	180	RS	D'Iberville, La.
96	Luther Davis, DL	Sr	6-3	275	3L	West Monroe, La.	18	Morgan Ogilvie, QB	Jr	6-0	195	Sq	Mountain Brook
51	Michael DeJohn, LB	Sr	6-1	241	Sq	Hoover	2	Tana Patrick, LB	Fr	6-3	235	RS	Bridgeport
85	Preston Dial, TE	Sr	6-3	233	3L	Mobile	39	Kyle Pennington, DB	Sr	5-11	188	Sq	Chatom
40	DeMarcus DuBose, LB	Jr	6-1	232	Sq	Montgomery	68	Taylor Pharr, OL	Sr	6-6	290	3L	Irondale
13	Rob Ezell, WR	Sr	5-10	170	Sq	Athens	54	Russell Raines, OL	Fr	6-2	260	RS	Satsuma
76	D.J. Fluker, OL	Fr	6-6	340	RS	Foley	3	Trent Richardson, RB	So	5-11	220	1L	Pensacola, Fla.
XX	*Cade Foster, K	Fr	6-1	215	HS	Southlake, Texas	74	David Ross, OL	Sr	6-3	299	2L	Homewood
XX	*Jalston Fowler, RB	Fr	6-0	245	HS	Prichard	1	B.J. Scott, CB	So	5-11	196	1L	Prichard
XX	*John Fulton, CB	Fr	6-0	180	HS	Manning, S.C.	94	Darrington Sentimore, DL	Fr	6-3	280	RS	Norco, La.
95	Colin Gallagher, PK	Sr	5-10	194	Sq	Atlanta	90	Jeremy Shelley, PK	So	5-10	170	Sq	Raleigh, N.C.
58	Nick Gentry, DL	Jr	6-1	264	1L	Prattville	XX	*Austin Shepherd, OL	Fr	6-4	315	HS	Suwanee, Ga.
11	Brandon Gibson, WR	Jr	6-2	192	1L	Mobile	48	Travis Sikes, WR	Sr	6-3	198	1L	Nashville
6	Demetrius Goode, RB	Jr	5-9	191	1L	LaGrange, Ga.	XX	*Phillip Sims, QB	Fr	6-2	215	HS	Chesapeake, Va.
29	Terry Grant, RB	Sr	5-10	190	3L	Lumberton, Miss.	71	Allen Skelton, OL	Jr	6-1	265	Sq	Coker
23	Robby Green, S	Jr	6-0	181	2L	New Orleans	17	Brad Smelley, TE	Jr	6-3	233	2L	Tuscaloosa
34	Jeramie Griffin, RB	So	6-2	224	RS	Batesville, Miss.	92	Damion Square, DL	So	6-3	272	1L	Houston
15	Darius Hanks, WR	Jr	6-0	184	2L	Norcross, Ga.	61	Anthony Steen, OL	Fr	6-3	305	RS	Lambert, Miss.
54	Glenn Harbin, DL	So	6-5	257	Sq	Mobile	47	Ed Stinson, LB	Fr	6-4	240	RS	Homestead, Fla.
10	Jerrell Harris, LB	Jr	6-3	227	2L	Gadsden	46	William Strickland, WR	Jr	6-0	185	Sq	Tuscaloosa
30	Dont'a Hightower, LB	So	6-4	255	1L	Lewisburg, Tenn.	90	Milton Talbert, DL	Sr	6-4	275	2L	Hattiesburg, Miss.
22	Mark Ingram, RB	Jr	5-10	212	2L	Flint, Mich.	51	Carson Tinker, SN	Jr	6-1	220	Sq	Murfreesboro, Tenn.
2	Star Jackson, QB	So	6-3	206	Sq	Lake Worth, Fla.	87	Chris Underwood, TE	Jr	6-4	231	2L	Vestavia Hills
35	Nico Johnson, LB	So	6-3	225	1L	Andalusia	41	Courtney Upshaw, LB	Jr	6-2	249	2L	Eufaula
75	Barrett Jones, RG	So	6-4	289	1L	Memphis	73	William Vlachos, C	Jr	6-1	294	2L	Birmingham
8	Julio Jones, WR	Jr	6-4	211	2L	Foley	65	Chance Warmack, OL	Fr	6-3	301	RS	Atlanta
36	Chris Jordan, LB	Jr	6-3	230	2L	Brentwood, Tenn.	91	Alex Watkins, LB	Jr	6-3	225	Sq	Brownsville, Tenn.
81	Kendall Kelly, WR	Fr	6-3	216	RS	Gadsden	55	Chavis Williams, LB	Sr	6-4	223	3L	Dora
21	Dre Kirkpatrick, CB	So	6-3	185	1L	Gadsden	60	David Williams, OL	So	6-3	272	Sq	Duncanville
42	Eddie Lacy, RB	Fr	6-0	210	RS	Geismar, La.	63	Kellen Williams, OL	Fr	6-3	290	RS	Lawrenceville, Ga.
37	Robert Lester, S	So	6-2	207	1L	Foley	89	Michael Williams, TE	So	6-6	266	1L	Reform
XX	*Brandon Lewis, DT	Jr	6-3	280	JC	Pleasant Grove	9	Nick Williams, WR	Fr	5-10	165	RS	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
XX	*Chad Lindsay, OL	Fr	6-3	310	HS	The Woodlands, Texas	18	Rod Woodson, DB	So	5-11	200	1L	Olive Branch, Miss.
72	Tyler Love, OL	So	6-6	303	1L	Mountain Brook		*Entered The University in January					

Golf Is Good

Men's and women's teams both among nation's best

If you have a nationally ranked team and two of your players are on the watch list for the honor of the nation's best player, you have a very fine golf squad. That is the case for Coach Jay Seawell's Alabama men's golf team.

But it may be that Seawell doesn't have the best golf team on the campus of The University of Alabama. The Crimson Tide women's team of Coach Mic Potter is ranked higher than the men, among the nation's top ten teams, and opened the spring season with a convincing victory in a prestigious tournament against a field of good teams in the Puerto Rico Classic.

MEN'S GOLF

"This is a little bit of a building year since we didn't add any 2009 signees," Alabama Men's Golf Coach Jay Seawell said. "We don't have any fresh faces, but that's partly because we didn't think we needed them with the '10 guys we were going to sign." They won't help this year, but it's worth mentioning that Alabama's early signing class in November included two of the nation's most outstanding players, Cory Whitsett from Houston, Texas, and Bobby Wyatt of Mobile.

Bud Cauley is one of nation's best as sophomore



University of Alabama

They will enter Alabama in the fall.

As for this year, "We have the two biggest pieces of the puzzle," Seawell said. "We have two great players. It's the job of the ones behind—the three, four and five players—that's the key. Usually, that's the easy job. The hard part ordinarily is getting the racers.

"In Bud Cauley and Hunter Hamrick, we've got two players ranked among the nation's top five individually."

Seawell said the Tide will miss two men from last year, three-time All-Southeastern Conference performer Matthew Swan and Matt Hughes. Losing those two and signing no new players "is the reason for the gap," Seawell said. "But we knew three years ago that we were going to be building this year. If we can do that and still be a force, that's okay."

Although Alabama is set to start three sophomores and two freshmen, the Crimson Tide ranks 12th in the nation going into spring play. "If we can get play from our three, four and five, then we can move up," Seawell said. "We'll be a very young team, but I'm excited about them putting their personality on Alabama golf."

Discussion of the Crimson Tide begins with Cauley, a second year player from Jacksonville, Florida. Cauley was named to the 2009 Walker Cup team, the highest honor in amateur golf. He was a first team All-America and Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year after finishing in the top five of 10 events last year, including winning the U.S. Collegiate Championship. Last summer he won the Players Amateur.

In his freshman campaign with the Tide, Cauley was named a first-team All-American by *Golfweek* and SEC Freshman of the Year after finishing in the top five in five of the 10 events he played with a first-place finish at the U.S. Collegiate Championship. During the summer, Cauley added to his budding resume with a top 10 finish at the Northeast Amateur before outright winning the prestigious Players Amateur.

"You can count on him when the chips are down," Seawell said. "He's competitive. I think what he did last year was great, but I think it's just the tip of the iceberg. I think he can be better. We're going to challenge him to be better."

Hamrick also had an outstanding freshman year, including winning the Northeast Regional. The Montgomery native was an honorable mention All-America and last summer won the Alabama Amateur and qualified for the United States Amateur.

"He sneakily has become one of the best players in the country," Seawell said. "He won twice in the fall. He's a great complement to Bud and they help each other by being competitive."

Seawell is excited about the potential of redshirt freshman Scott Strohmeyer of Auburn. Strohmeyer won last year's Alabama Match Play championship. "He is probably the hardest worker on our team," Seawell said. "That means he's one of the hardest workers in college golf. He's a raw player with a lot of skills who is learning the mental part of it."

Hunter Slatton, a 6-5 sophomore from Tuscaloosa, is another hard worker, Seawell said. "He's determined to help make Alabama great," the coach said. "He needs to learn to not put too much pressure on himself."

Lee Knox, a redshirt freshman from Augusta, Georgia, could be a key for the Tide. "He's a great competitor," Seawell said. "If he can give us good tournament rounds we will have a chance to do things."

Camilla Lennarth may be best
Tide women's golfer ever



University of Alabama

2010 ALABAMA MEN'S GOLF ROSTER

Name	Hgt.	Year	Hometown (High School)
Bud Cauley	5-7	So	Jacksonville, Fla. (Home)
Spencer Cole	6-0	So	Greer, S.C. (Pendleton)
Hunter Hamrick	5-9	So	Montgomery (Montgomery Acad)
Thomas Huggins	6-1	Sr	Pente Vedra, Fla. (Nease)
Lee Knox	5-11	Fr	Augusta, Ga. (Augusta Prep)
Hunter Slatton	6-5	So	Tuscaloosa (Northridge)
Scott Strohmeyer	6-3	Fr	Auburn (Auburn)
Phillip Weaver	6-1	Jr	Tuscaloosa (Northridge)

Head Coach: Jay Seawell
Assistant Coach: Scott Limbaugh

Seawell expects sophomore Spencer Cole of Greer, South Carolina, to be a factor, but it won't be soon. Cole is recuperating from surgery to repair the medial collateral ligament in his knee. "He was just starting to come into his own," Seawell said. "He's got the tools to be one of the great players in college golf."

Alabama's schedule is once again a very competitive one. "We want to always compete against the best teams," Seawell said. "For one reason, we think we are one of those teams. And we also want to know where we stand in relation to the top teams."

WOMEN'S GOLF

Alabama has become a national power in just four years under Women's Golf Coach Mic Potter. The Crimson Tide goes into the spring season ranked eighth in the nation, and the Crimson Tide could do better than that. Bama has had back-to-back strong seasons and has the nucleus for a very fine squad. And that's having lost two-time All-America Kathleen Ekey.

Alabama was a top ten team most of last year and finished 11 in the NCAA Championship Tournament. Potter thinks the experience of competing at a high level will pay dividends this year in confidence and momentum.

Junior Camilla Lennarth enters this season as Alabama's most accomplished returner and boasts an impressive list of achievements in two seasons with the Tide, including honorable mention All-America. She led the team in scoring average last season at 73.7, the third-lowest total in school history, and finished in the top 15 in nine of the 12 events she competed in. The Stockholm, Sweden native has four top five finishes in 23 career events.

"In a quiet way, she's the best player ever to play at Alabama," Potter said. "When she stays focused and stays positive, she's a great player. Her biggest strength is she doesn't have any weaknesses." He said she drives the ball well, stays out of trouble, is always around the



University of Alabama

2010 ALABAMA WOMEN'S GOLF ROSTER

Name	Hgt.	Year	Hometown (High School)
Helena Blomberg	5-8	Sr	Uppsala, Sweden (Bildningcentrum)
Courtney Harter	5-6	Jr	Clearwater, Fla. (Palm Harbor)
Jennifer Kirby	5-8	Fr	Paris, Ont. (Paris)
Camilla Lennarth	5-10	Jr	Stockholm, Sweden (Klippans)
Rhea Nair	5-4	Sr	Dubaix, UAR (Pendleton)
Brooke Pancake	5-7	So	Chattanooga (Baylor)
Kelley VanDenburg	5-6	Jr	Brockport, N.Y. (Central)

Head Coach: Mic Potter
Assistant Coach: Susan Rosenstiel



University of Alabama

green "and hits most greens, so if her putting is on..."

Potter thought when he recruited Jennifer Kirby from Paris, Ontario, in Canada last year that he had gotten a good player. But no one suspected the season she would have by winning four major Canadian tournaments last summer. "All of a sudden she was a superstar," Potter said. And going into spring play, Kirby had the team's second lowest scoring average, behind Lennarth.

Sophomore Brooke Pancake of Chattanooga had a strong freshman season, including leading the nation in driving accuracy at 92 per cent fairways hit. She had five top ten finishes. Among her rounds in the 60s was an outstanding 68 in the final round of the NCAA Tournament. She was runner-up for SEC Freshman of the Year. "She has no real weaknesses," Potter said. "I expect her to have another good year."

Potter has hopes for two seniors, Helena Blomberg of Uppsala, Sweden, and Rhea Nair of Dubai, UAR. Both are coming off injuries. Blomberg had surgery on both feet last spring and Nair sat out the fall after having wrist surgery. Both have had success. Blomberg has six career top 10 finishes including a seventh place at the SEC Championships her freshman year. Nair was medalist at the First Market Bank Intercollegiate.

"I think that Helena and Rhea coming in with more than three years of experience each competing with our team and at the intercollegiate level that we compete at now, it will all come together for them this season," Potter said.

Junior Courtney Harter of Clearwater, Florida, has played in 20 events. Last year she had Bama's lowest score, a 67 at the Cougar Classic. As a freshman she won the Wildcat Invitational.

Potter knows the importance of depth. He has top players and expects to have good play from the fourth and fifth competitors.

A highlight of the Tide's spring schedule comes April 16-18 when Alabama hosts the SEC Championships for the first time since 1998. The tournament will be held at the NorthRiver Yacht Club. ■

Looking Forward

Men and women build on successful 2009

Ah remember 2009? Not just the national championship won by Alabama's football team, either. Alabama tennis was very successful last year. There's an adage in athletics that it is more difficult to sustain a program than it is to build it.

Alabama Men's Tennis Coach Billy Pate and Crimson Tide Women's Coach Jenny Mainz understand the challenges and are excited to be facing them this spring.

Here's a look at Bama tennis:

MEN'S TENNIS

Pate hopes this season is new look, same results. The Crimson Tide will have a tough time replacing five seniors, as four of them won at least 20 singles matches last season. Four of the five also consistently competed in doubles. But not all is lost.

"We lost a great deal of experience," said Pate. "They set some special milestones in their careers and their success will collectively be hard to replace, but they also mentored the underclassmen and taught them a lot about what it takes to lead and compete in the SEC. I'm encouraged because we have some experienced guys returning along with a collection of very talented young players. When your program has success, as we have, you're bound to lose great players and be forced to bring along young ones. That's part of the cycle, but it's also part of what makes it exciting."

Returning is senior Saketh Myneni, who was ranked Number 10 in the Campbell's/ITA pre-season rankings.

"Saketh has improved dramatically," said Pate. "Two years ago as a sophomore he made a huge jump to go from playing Number 6 singles to being our Number 1 player, a position he has held since. Last year he became more consistent at that position, posting significant wins down to the stretch of the spring despite being hampered by a hip injury."

Last season, Myneni defeated three top 10 opponents and qualified for the NCAA Singles Tournament. Because of his successful junior campaign, he was named the ITA Player to Watch for the Southeast Region this season. The only other senior for Alabama is

Houssam Yassine, and although he saw limited action last season, he will be expected to provide leadership and stability to this year's team.

Pate also has two sophomores, Michael Thompson and Ricky Doverspike, who had valuable playing experience last season.

Doverspike and Thompson contributed in both singles and doubles. Doverspike was a perfect 8-0 in dual singles matches, including a win over Furman in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, and had a team-high 29 doubles wins. Thompson finished last season win 14 dual wins in singles and was 7-2 at the Number 3 doubles position, including wins in the NCAA first and second rounds with Doverspike.

The final two returning players from last season's team are junior Trey Walston and sophomore Creighton Blanchard. Walston collected two dual singles wins in non-conference action last season, while Blanchard played two matches at Number 3 doubles against non-conference opponents.

"We have some guys that have been through the rigors of SEC competition," stated Pate. "But we will definitely need to count on a few freshmen to contribute in a positive way for us to be at the level we achieved last year. I think we have a chance to do that, but we will be relying heavily on some young, but talented, players."

Those young, talented players are Ian Chadwell, Harris Barnard, and Jarryd Botha.

hadwell won three state titles at Centennial High School in Tennessee, and was on track to become the first player in state history to win four straight before suffering an injury in the championship match. Barnard is an Alabama native who claimed a high school state title at the Number 1 position as a senior. Botha, a native of South Africa, joined the team in January. He will have little time to get adjusted to competing in the collegiate ranks, but will still add to the depth of this season's team.

Pate will also look to work Michael Davis into the lineup this season. Davis sat out last season.

"The strength of this team will be balance," said Pate. "We have a proven Number 1 player in Saketh Myneni, and after him we

Saketh Myneni, a senior, ranks 10th in the nation

2010 ALABAMA MEN'S TENNIS ROSTER

Name	Hgt.	Year	Exp.	Hometown (School)
Harris Barnard	6-1	Fr	HS	Dothan (Northview)
Creighton Blanchard	6-0	So	1L	Orange Park, Fla. (Bolles)
Jarryd Botha	6-1	Fr	HS	Cape Town, S.A. (Reddam House)
Ian Chadwell	5-11	Fr	HS	Franklin, Tenn. (Centennial)
Michael Davis	6-1	So	HS	London, Eng.
Ricky Doverspike	6-4	So	1L	Atlanta (Northview)
Saketh Myneni	6-4	Sr	3L	Andhra Pradesh, India
Michael Thompson	5-10	So	1L	Capetown, S.A. (Rondebosch)
Trey Walston	6-0	Jr	2L	Birmingham (Mountain Brook)
Houssam Yassine	6-0	Sr	3L	Rabat, Morocco

Head Coach: Billy Pate

Assistant Coach: Bo Hodge Volunteer Assistant: Paul Thoesen



University of Alabama

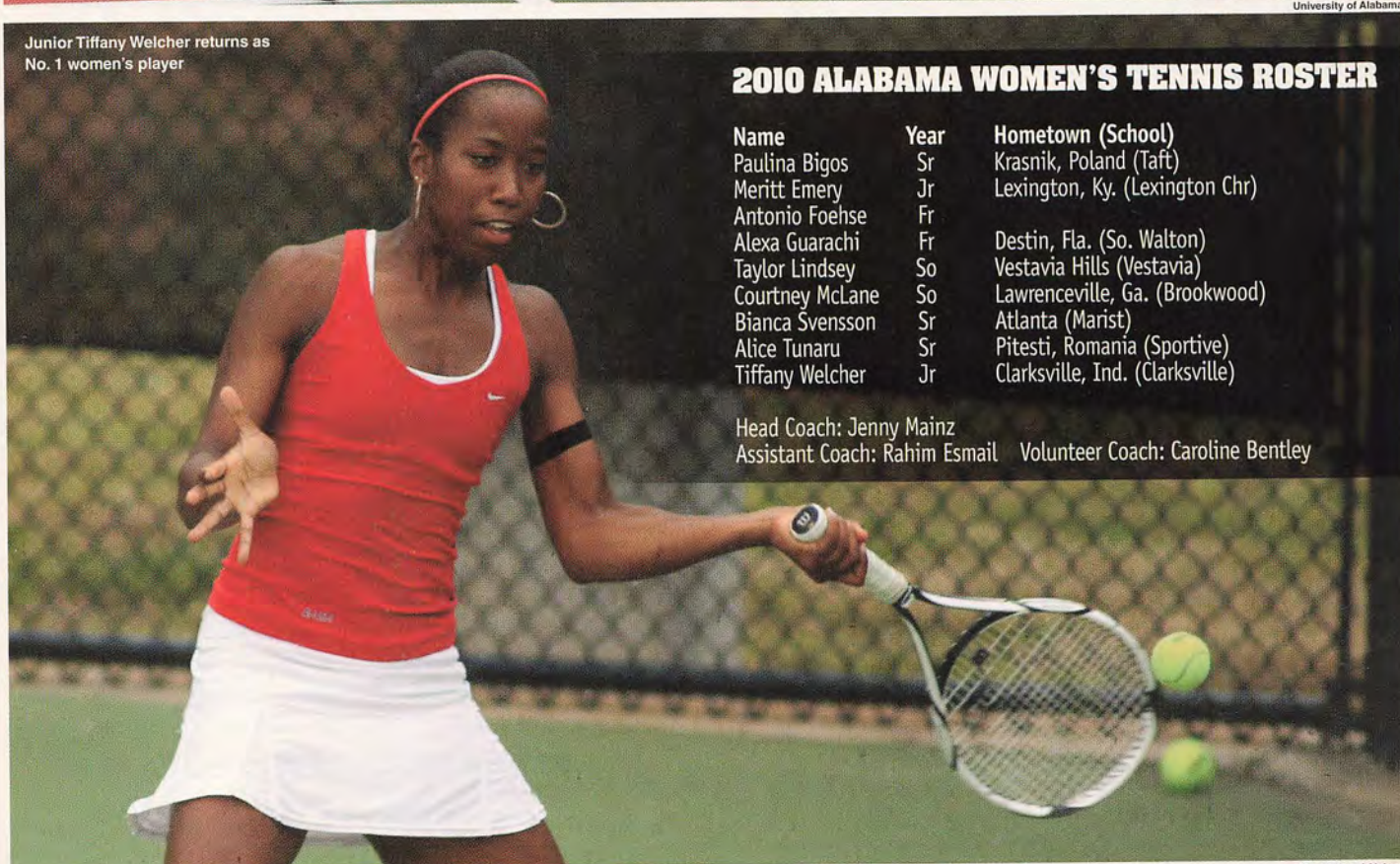
Junior Tiffany Welcher returns as
No. 1 women's player

2010 ALABAMA WOMEN'S TENNIS ROSTER

Name	Year	Hometown (School)
Paulina Bigos	Sr	Krasnik, Poland (Taft)
Meritt Emery	Jr	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Chr)
Antonio Foehse	Fr	
Alexa Guarachi	Fr	Destin, Fla. (So. Walton)
Taylor Lindsey	So	Vestavia Hills (Vestavia)
Courtney McLane	So	Lawrenceville, Ga. (Brookwood)
Bianca Svensson	Sr	Atlanta (Marist)
Alice Tunaru	Sr	Pitesti, Romania (Sportive)
Tiffany Welcher	Jr	Clarksville, Ind. (Clarksville)

Head Coach: Jenny Mainz

Assistant Coach: Rahim Esmail Volunteer Coach: Caroline Bentley



University of Alabama

have a collection of talented guys who could compete for positions from top to bottom."

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Following one of its most memorable seasons under head coach Jenny Mainz, the Alabama women's tennis team hopes to build off of the success it experienced in 2009. Qualifying for the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2006 and finishing in the top 30 of the national rankings, Mainz's team appears to be on its way up.

"No doubt we have our work cut out for us this spring," said Mainz. "We are playing a competitive schedule and the expectations are considerable. I trust this team will go after this season aggressively. They are not content with our finish last year and understand the demands that lie in front of us. That being said, we continue to improve and gain confidence."

The Crimson Tide only lost one senior from last year's squad, but Shelley Godwin was the leader who provided several clinching victories for Alabama.

"Shelley Godwin was one of the absolute finest ambassadors The University of Alabama has ever had," said Mainz. "She was an emotional leader on and off the court. Shelley led with integrity, character and an unyielding spirit. In my mind, she was the heart and soul of Alabama tennis."

The Tide finished last season with the Number 26 national ranking thanks to a 15-9 overall record in dual-match play. Alabama reached as high as Number 16 nationally, its first top 20 ranking under Mainz. The team also started out the season 11-0, setting a new school record for consecutive wins.

Seniors Paulina Bigos and Alice Tunaru will be among the candidates expected to provide leadership this season. Bigos was an integral part of the singles and doubles lineup a season ago where she finished with a combined 25 wins in dual matches, while Tunaru helped stabilize the Tide's doubles lineup at the end of last season.

Junior Tiffany Welcher, an All-Southeastern Conference second team selection, played Number 1 singles last season, giving her valuable experience playing against some of the top players in the nation. She picked up 10 wins in dual-match play, three of which came against nationally-ranked opponents.

Classmate Meritt Emery was a steady fixture at the Number 4 spot for the Tide where she picked up 14 wins. At one point last season Emery went 8-0 against her competition, five of which were decided in straight sets.

Now sophomores, Taylor Lindsey and Courtney McLane both made impacts during their freshmen campaigns. Lindsey was Alabama's overall leader in wins in 2009 with 27, including 18 in dual-match play. She was a two-time SEC Freshman of the Week honoree and began her season with a 13-0 singles record. McLane, the Tide's Number 2 singles player, earned 14 victories in dual matches picking up four wins against nationally-ranked opponents and six against regionally-ranked foes.

Incoming freshmen Alexa Guarachi will add even more strength



University of Alabama



University of Alabama

to the Tide lineup as she was labeled a Blue Chip recruit and ranked Number 5 nationally in the class of 2009 by TennisRecruiting.net. The Destin, Florida, native has played in over 23 countries capturing more than five International Tennis Federation titles in her junior career and held a Women's Tennis Association ranking of 953. Guarachi had a stellar fall season for Alabama finishing with a 9-2 singles mark. She won

the Number 2 singles draw at the SEC Fall Coaches Classic and finished as runner-up in doubles with McLane in the finals of the Wilson/ITA Southern Regional Championships.

"I'm both encouraged and optimistic about the leadership within our team this season," said Mainz. "We have more than a few competent and capable leaders this year who have steered us in a positive direction. I feel this team has matured considerably. Last year, we had four underclassmen playing in the top six. Their experiences will no doubt play a significant role in our season. We will rely on the experience and direction of Paulina, Alice, Meritt and Tiffany. They have played an influential role in the growth and advancement of this program. We will count on the energy, enthusiasm and tenacity of our young charges in Courtney, Taylor and Alexa."

What It Means To Be Crimson Tide

Gene Stallings and Alabama's Greatest Players

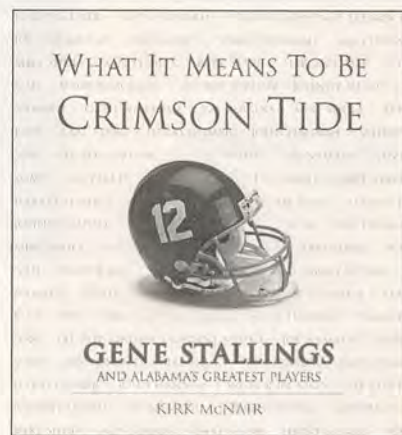
Alabama football means championships and All-America players and, for many, a man in a houndstooth hat. Some 60 Alabama players who performed over a 75-year period tell us "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Former Alabama Coach Gene Stallings and BAMA Editor Kirk McNair selected players who tell the stories of games and practices, coaches and teammates. The story of "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Among those featured are Harry Gilmer, Bart Starr, Lee Roy Jordan, Joe Namath, Ken Stabler, Johnny Musso, John Hannah, Ozzie Newsome, and Jay Barker.

Gene Stallings reveals much of his philosophy and reveals why he did NOT follow Paul Bryant as Alabama head football coach in 1983. Kirk McNair introduces the players.

"What It Means To Be Crimson Tide—Gene Stallings and Alabama's Greatest Players" is a hardcover book of over 300 pages in an oversized format with archival photographs throughout. To order (\$27.95 plus tax, shipping and handling) call 1-205-345-5074. You may request a personalized autograph from Kirk McNair.



Depth And Talent

High expectations for experienced teams

The Alabama men's track and field team has established itself as one of the nation's best in recent seasons. The Alabama women haven't had as much national success, but that could be changing.

The secret to success is having enough outstanding athletes, and both squads have been able to build quality depth. That is expected to pay dividends this season.

A team has to have numbers to do well at the conference level. At the national level the emphasis is more on quality.

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

The Alabama men's track and field team of Coach Harvey Glance finished 12th in the John McDonnell Program Award, which recognizes program national rankings in cross country, indoor and outdoor track. Only only 16 teams even qualified. were eligible for the rankings.

Bama got off to a good start in this overall season with its best cross country season in school history, including repeating as Southeastern Conference champions and finishing third in the nation. That translates to points in distance events indoors and outdoors.

"My goal is to be a top 10 program and try to build more consistency across all three seasons," Glance said. "If you could describe this team, it's that we not only have good talent, but probably for the first time in my 19 years as a head coach, this



Ray Jadusingh is top sprinter for men's team

University of Alabama

is likely the most depth and talent I've had on one team. I'm very confident that the kinds of athletes we've recruited, and the team that we have in all respective areas will make us a better program. We've brought in better talent this year and I really feel good about this team." He expects a top ten national finish indoors and outdoors.

The Crimson Tide has added a few rookies to the program that are expected to contribute immediately with some having already made their debut in the fall with the cross country squad. The men will have some new international faces on the sprinting team in the Norgrove twins, Fabian and Kemar, as well as another four-minute

miler in Joel Rop. All three have the ability to be a threat to score at the conference meet.

The obvious strength of the team falls on the distance program. The only area that Alabama lacks in is the throwing events.

Here's a look at the Tide by events.

Distance

Senior All-America runners Tyson David and Emmanuel Bor lead the Tide's group of distance runners indoors, but have exhausted eligibility outdoors. In addition to freshman mile star Rop, newcomers Julius Bor, Moses Kiptoo and Fred Samoei made their presence known during the cross country season. All of them should be able to contribute on the oval. Julius Bor has been under 1:50 in the 800 meters as the junior transfer joins his brother Emmanuel. Kiptoo is a threat to score in both the 5,000 and 10,000. Samoei should be competitive in any event from 800 to 10,000 meters. The squad also returns every member from its All-SEC distance medley relay team.

Sprint and Relays

Returning every sprinter from last season that advanced to the NCAA Championships, the Alabama sprinting squad should excel in 2010 with the newly added talent. The men will have three returners from their region qualifying 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams. Ray Jadusingh, a NCAA qualifier in the 100 meter and 4x100m relay, will lead the group. Jadusingh was also a Mideast Region qualifier in the 200m and 4x400m relay. Aaron Stockstell returns for his sophomore season after being a SEC finalist and regional qualifier at 800 meters. Stockstell also turned in some of the best times in school history as a rookie, moving into the top 10 in Alabama history, both indoor and outdoor. Matt Watson brings experience.

Jumps

The Tide has three high jumpers who have all cleared seven feet during their careers. Returning from last season is Tyler Campbell, a sophomore who finished fourth at the SEC and ranks

as the eighth-best indoor high jumper in school history. All-SEC high jumper Tyler Boswell enters his senior campaign after being conference runner-up in the high jump as a freshman and ranks as the seventh-best outdoor high jumper in school history. Redshirted last year, freshman Mike Edwards has cleared seven feet many times in high school.

Multi-Events

It can be expected for Alabama to have a strong presence in the multi-events in 2010 as senior Michael Hughes and sophomore Justin Brady now have a year of experience under their belts. Hughes, once competing in just the pole vault, ranks as the third-best heptathlon performer in school history and was in fourth place during the outdoor decathlon at the SEC Championships before having to withdraw due to injury. Brady was just three points from scoring at the SEC Outdoor Championships in the decathlon where he finished ninth. Tim Grier returns after redshirting last season and after his unattached performance at the 2009 Alabama Relays, he will likely compete in the multi-events as opposed to just the

Alabama's women's sprint corps led by Kim Laing



University of Alabama



Harvey Glance



Sandy Fowler

University of Alabama

University of Alabama

long jump and hurdles. The Tide added Mobile native Quentin Petty to the team.

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

In 2009, the Alabama women's track and field team, led by Coach Sandy Fowler, came within just 3.5 points of reaching its goal of finishing in the top six at the SEC championships. Even though the squad's goals were not reached, the bar is still raised a bit higher for the women. The Crimson Tide returns all but one member who scored in last season's SEC Outdoor Championships.

"I think the season this year is going to be fantastic," Fowler said. "I could see us easily placing in the top five both indoor and outdoor as a team. We have a lot more depth than we had a year ago. Overall as a team, we've had a fantastic fall training this year."

Fowler has at least one leader in each event on the veteran team.

"Chealsea Taylor, Angelica Howard, Elizabeth Wilson, Kim Laing, Kelsey Johnson and Haley Moody have become our leaders," Fowler said. "The team has gelled. Everybody is starting to buy in to the program and I think that's why

we see so many leaders."

Although there are just a few rookies on the roster in 2010, these newcomers bring a high level of talent to the team. In the distance area, Katlyn Will and Elsbeth Denton already made their presence known during the cross country season where they ran in the top seven for the team in every race. Tuscaloosan Bekah Hoppis joins the Tide as former state champion and state record holder in the javelin and discus. Wilamena Hopkins can contribute immediately in both the shot put and discus, and perhaps in weight and hammer.

Distance

The distance program returns everybody from a year ago and will be led by Mideast Region qualifier Kelsey Johnson. Johnson qualified for regionals in the 1,500 and 5,000 meter races, yet only competed in the 5,000 in which she placed 13th as a freshman.

Haley Moody had a successful cross country season after having a tough sophomore year and looks poised to have a just as good track season. Sara Vaughn and Andrea Torske enter their second seasons in the steeplechase after turning in the third and fifth fastest times in school history as rookies. The Gilmore twins, Leigh and Sarah, have been the most improved since joining the team. The Gilmores set personal bests all throughout the outdoor season in 2009 and made significant drops in cross country.

Sprints and Hurdles

Alabama is quickly becoming a dominant force in the hurdle world. The roster includes senior NCAA qualifiers Kim Laing in the 100 and Talaya Owens in the 400. Laing brought the second fastest time into the SEC Championships but fell in the finals only to recover by placing third at the Mideast Region Championships. She returns as one of the best in the conference as well as the nation.

Audra Frimpong will help in the hurdles, the long jump and the relays. Frimpong had a chance to join her teammate Krystle Schade at the Pan Am Junior Games, but fell in the hurdle race at the USA Junior National. She finished seventh at the SEC and Mideast Region Championships in the 100 hurdles.

The 4x100 relay team finished fifth at the SEC Championships and fourth at the Mideast Region Championships a year ago and returns every member.

Multi-Events

In the multi-events, the Tide returns two NCAA qualifiers – senior Chealsea Taylor and junior Rachel Robbs. Taylor holds the school record in the pentathlon and has finished third at the SEC Championships the past two years. In her first time ever competing in the heptathlon, she finished fourth at the SEC Championships with four of the seven events being brand new to her. Robbs, who holds the second-best score in the pentathlon and third in the heptathlon in school history, will be looking to make her second consecutive trip to the NCAA Championships.

Throws

In 2009, Angelica Howard won the school's first SEC title in the hammer throw. From her freshman to sophomore season, Howard improved her hammer throw by nearly 40-feet. Meghan Austin should be a contributor once again in the javelin. She placed eighth in the javelin at the 2009 SEC Championships after having finished fifth the year before.

Jumps

The Tide will be led in the jumps by sophomore high jumper Krystle Schade. Schade boasts a personal-best clearance of six feet and finished 11th at the NCAA Outdoor. Over the summer, Schade represented the United States at the Pan Am Junior Games where she finished second. Chealsea Taylor will join Schade in the high jump and will be a threat to win the SEC title. In three trips to the SEC Championships, including indoor and outdoor, Taylor has finished third twice and second once – and that is after competing in the pentathlon and heptathlon. Audra Frimpong will represent Alabama in the long jump, although her main focus will be in the sprints and hurdle area.



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STOCK REPORT

NFL DRAFT

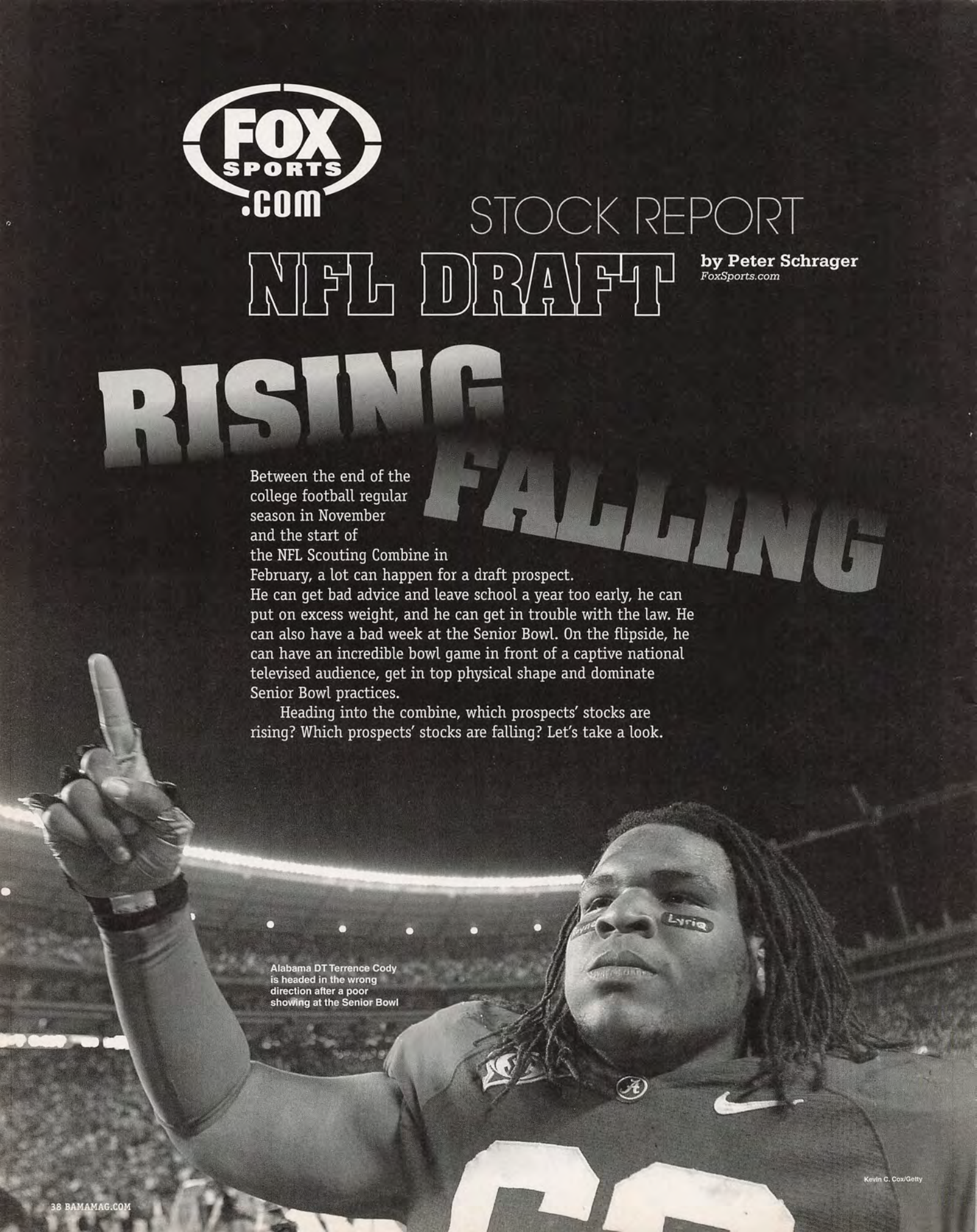
by Peter Schrager
FoxSports.com

RISING FALLING

Between the end of the college football regular season in November and the start of the NFL Scouting Combine in February, a lot can happen for a draft prospect.

He can get bad advice and leave school a year too early, he can put on excess weight, and he can get in trouble with the law. He can also have a bad week at the Senior Bowl. On the flipside, he can have an incredible bowl game in front of a captive national televised audience, get in top physical shape and dominate Senior Bowl practices.

Heading into the combine, which prospects' stocks are rising? Which prospects' stocks are falling? Let's take a look.



Alabama DT Terrence Cody is headed in the wrong direction after a poor showing at the Senior Bowl

Kevin C. Cox/Getty

RISING

Joique Bell, RB, Wayne State

The 2009 Harlon Hill Award winner, given to the top Division II player in the nation, was a star during Senior Bowl practices. Shifty between the tackles with considerable speed, he can be a second- or third-round selection in April.

Andre Roberts, WR, Citadel

Regarded as a precise route runner with 4.4 speed, Roberts stood out at the Senior Bowl and has made a name for himself among scouts. He put on 12 pounds between the start of the college season and Senior Bowl weigh-ins, making him a little tougher off the line.

Vladimir Ducasse, OL/OG, Massachusetts

Ducasse is the fastest-rising offensive line prospect in the draft and helped his stock immensely during Senior Bowl week. A 6-foot-5, 330-pound beast, the small-school prospect could play either guard or offensive tackle. He should go no later than early second round.

Mike Iupati, OG, Idaho

Word out of Mobile was that Iupati was the consensus top overall player at the Senior Bowl. A week of dominant practices, backed up by a career's worth of dominant play, Iupati should be the top offensive guard taken draft weekend. He's currently viewed as a mid to late first-round pick, but could potentially slide into the top 15 with a few good individual workouts.

Brandon Graham, LB/DE, Michigan Graham came to Mobile, Ala., for the Senior Bowl as a likely second- or third-round draft prospect. He left as the Senior Bowl MVP and a potential mid-first-round draft selection. Graham was a beast all week and abused the top left tackles in the game, sacking quarterbacks twice in the North's 31-13 win.





Kevin C. Cox/Getty

Tim Tebow, QB, Florida Tebow opened himself up for dissection during Senior Bowl week, and dissected he was. By everyone. His release point is too low, his motion too slow and his footwork a mess. As a quarterback, he's a project. As a tight end or an H-back, he's not worth a first-round selection. He's a good guy to have in your locker room, sure. But so are a lot of guys.

Terrence Cody, DT, Alabama

The topless photos out of Mobile didn't help Cody much. Neither did his caliber of play. Tipping the scales at an unimaginable 370 pounds, there are serious concerns about the run stuffer's size and stamina. Is he worth a first- or second-round pick if he can only play a few downs per series?

Taylor Price, WR, Ohio

Price entered Senior Bowl week as one of the more intriguing prospects in the draft. He spent the week getting jammed at the line, dropping passes and looking overmatched. He's not all that fast, won't wow any stop watches at the combine and has mediocre hands. First- or second-round pick? Not likely.

Javier Arenas, CB, Alabama

Arenas had a fantastic senior season and was a first-team All-American. Scouts are concerned about his size and ability to play corner at the next level, though. He didn't do himself any favors during Senior Bowl Week. Taller receivers had their way with Arenas. A potential first-round pick in December, he's now more likely a fourth- or fifth-round selection.

Trevard Lindley, CB, Kentucky

A top cornerback prospect for the past three years, Lindley was dwarfed by fellow corners Perrish Cox and Kyle Wilson in Mobile. Lindley got by on physical play and superior athletic ability in college. That won't fly in the pros.

UNOFFICIAL



2010 NFL Draft BIG BOARD

By Chris Steuber, Scout.com
February 1, 2010

1. Ndamukong Suh, DT, Nebraska

The most dominant player available in the 2010 draft, Suh is a lock to be a top-two pick in the draft after recording 12 sacks in '09.

2. Eric Berry, S, Tennessee

A playmaking safety with the quickness and cover skills of a corner, Berry offers versatility to a team at the next level.

3. Sam Bradford, QB, Oklahoma

After two surgeries on his throwing shoulder, a lot of questions surround Bradford. But if he's healthy and works out well, he's the No. 1 QB in the draft.

4. Jimmy Clausen, QB, Notre Dame

A breakout junior season elevated Clausen's draft stock so much that he could be this year's Mark Sanchez and end up being a top 5 pick.

5. Gerald McCoy, DT, Oklahoma

Not as dominant or as explosive as Suh, but for a team that needs a polished presence in the trenches, McCoy is a solid alternative.

6. Russell Okung, OT, Oklahoma State

In a draft where the OT position is fairly deep, Okung stands out. He's experienced and has great ability at LT.

7. Joe Haden, CB, Florida

Haden is the best CB in the draft and has top-five pick ability. He's a lockdown corner that plays physical and possesses great ball skills.

8. Rolando McClain, LB, Alabama

A tremendously instinctive defender who plays with great passion, McClain has unlimited potential at the next level.

9. C.J. Spiller, RB, Clemson

A multi-dimensional threat who strikes fear into the opposition every time he has the ball, Spiller can be even more explosive in the NFL.

10. Dez Bryant, WR, Oklahoma State

After his season got cut short after being ruled ineligible over an off-the-field encounter, Bryant's size, speed and ability will shine on Sundays.

11. Trent Williams, OT, Oklahoma

A big, strong OT who can play on both sides of the line, Williams projects to be a RT at the next level.

12. Anthony Davis, OT, Rutgers

Davis is a massive OT who has the potential to be an All-Pro. He's so big, so quick and strong that if he puts it all together - look out.

13. Derrick Morgan, DE, Georgia Tech

Morgan is a well-rounded DE that defends the run well and has the potential to be a dominant pass rusher.

14. Carlos Dunlap, DE, Florida

A DUI charge at the end of the season has dropped Dunlap out of top 10 consideration, but his talent will allow him to be a top-20 pick.

15. Brandon Graham, DE/OLB, Michigan

A strong week at the Senior Bowl has elevated Graham's stock into the first round. He's a quarterback terror that has great speed and strength.

16. Mike Iupati, OG/OT, Idaho

Iupati's size, strength and versatility were apparent at the Senior Bowl, and there are teams that believe his future is at OT in the NFL.

17. Bryan Bulaga, OT, Iowa

Bulaga is big, quick and strong, and plays with great leverage and balance. He just has to work on his technique.

18. Taylor Mays, S, USC

As far as athletes in the draft, Mays is the best. But after a disappointing year, there's some doubt as to where he will play at the next level.


19. Everson Griffen, DE, USC

Griffen has developed over the last couple of years and emerged in '09 as an explosive pass rusher.

20. Earl Thomas, FS, Texas

The only redshirt sophomore to declare, Thomas has great athleticism and ball skills, but he has to work on his tackling.

21. Aaron Hernandez, TE, Florida

Hernandez had a breakout season in '09 and is the top TE in the draft. He's a great pass catching threat, but has to work on his blocking. 

Donald Miralle/Getty

'BAMA Scorecard

Notebooking Crimson Tide Sports

Green To Retire

Alabama's volleyball team will have its final season in the CAVE, the auxiliary gymnasium in Coleman Coliseum, this fall. Beginning in 2011, the Tide will move to renovated Foster Auditorium (along with women's basketball) and the auxiliary gym will become part of the new men's basketball practice area. The upcoming season will be the 15th for Judy Green as Bama's volleyball coach. And, she announced, it will be her last.

Green said it was not easy to make the decision to retire, but thinks the foundation is set for a new coach as the program moves to its new venue.

Prior to taking over the Alabama volleyball team, Green had been head coach at Montevallo for 10 seasons, leading that team to seven top ten NAIA finishes.

Under Green's direction, Alabama has made three NCAA Tournament appearances, including the school's first in 2005, followed by bids in 2006 and 2007. She has also coached the Tide to a pair of Southeastern Conference Western Division titles in 2000 and 2004 and the championship game of the final SEC tournament in 2005.

Green has coached Crimson Tide athletes to three AVCA All-America, two AVCA All-Region, five AVCA All-District and 21 All-SEC honors. In the classroom, Green's squads have earned team grade point averages of 3.0 or better 27 of 28 semesters as well as posting the highest team GPA of any NCAA Division I volleyball team in 2000. Her athletes have earned one CoSIDA Academic All-America, 10 CoSIDA Academic All-District and 61



Judy Green

SEC Academic Honor Roll accolades.

Green is the Tide's third volleyball coach, following Dorothy Franco-Reed (seven seasons) and Stephanie Schleuder (eight seasons).

Smart Money

There are two primary times to expect major changes in a college football coaching staff. One is bad, when the season has been poor and coaches are released. The other is good, when a team is having success and other programs raid the staff.

Alabama football is as good as it gets right now, coming off a 14-0 season and the Crimson Tide's 13th national championship. It was no surprise that Tommy Tuberville, the new head coach at Texas Tech, took Bama's James Willis, who had been a linebackers coach, and hired him as defensive coordinator, a nice move up for Willis.

Georgia reached out to Alabama Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart, offering him the same position for the Bulldogs. Smart said "No thanks" to his alma mater, turning down a sizable increase in salary.

The Alabama Board of Trustees recognized Smart's value to Coach Nick Saban's squad by doubling (plus a little) Smart's salary. He was also given a one-time bonus of \$34,400 and his contracted was extended a year to February 2013. His new salary, not including performance bonuses, is \$750,000 annually. His previous salary was \$360,000.

Following last season, Smart was winner of the Broyles Award, which recognizes the nation's top assistant football coach.

Under Smart, the 2009 Alabama defense ranked second nationally in six categories and in the top 10 in three other categories.

Smart was a defensive back at Georgia, 1995-98.

Baseball Ranked

Mitch Gaspard is in his first year as Alabama head baseball coach and begins with a team that was ranked 32nd in the nation

by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

The Crimson Tide returns six every day starters and one weekend pitcher off last year's team that won 37 games and played in the 2009 NCAA Clemson Regional, the school's 20th all-time post-season appearance.

Alabama is one of eight Southeastern Conference teams in the NCBWA preseason poll. In addition, the Crimson Tide will play 21 of its 56 games against teams ranked in various preseason polls.

Wilson An All-America

Alabama junior second baseman Ross Wilson was named to the 2010 Baseball America preseason All-America team, the second consecutive year he has received the honor, and was also a preseason All-America by PING Baseball and a second team selection by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

Wilson has compiled a .321 (152-for-473) career batting average with 24 home runs and 94 RBI in his 117-game career at Alabama. He is a two-time All-SEC performer after hitting .305 (71-for-215) with 12 home runs and 47 RBI in his 47-game SEC career.

Senior third baseman Jake Smith was a third-team All-America selection by Ping. He was a 2009 All-SEC selection as well as a two-time SEC All-Defensive Team member.

Wilson and Smith were among five Alabama players named to the 2010 SEBaseball.com preseason All-SEC team. Shortstop Josh Rutledge joined them on the first team, while sophomore center fielder Taylor Dugas and sophomore left-hand pitcher Adam Morgan were second team picks.

Alabama's five preseason All-SEC selections were more than any other school. LSU was second with four preseason All-SEC picks, while Mississippi, South Carolina and Vanderbilt had three each. Alabama and LSU were also tied with the most first-team All-SEC selections with three each.

SEBaseball.com rated the Crimson Tide's infield as the best in the conference and ranked the Crimson Tide third in terms of power. Smith and Wilson were ranked as the second-best 1-2 hitting punch in the league.

Good Attendance

According to the NCAA, Alabama baseball ranked 10th in the nation in attendance last season, averaging 4,010 fans per game to Sewell-Thomas Stadium. The Crimson Tide drew 116,294 fans in 29 home dates, the fewest number of home dates for the Crimson Tide in the last 20 years.

It was Bama's 11th top 10 ranking in the last 12 years. The Crimson Tide finished second nationally in attendance in 2000, 2001 and 2002, averaging more than 5,000 fans per game. In 2000, Alabama set a school attendance record with 211,331 fans and 6,216 per game average as the team sold out every home game at the Joe.

Baseball On TV

The Alabama baseball team will have eight televised games this season, according to the Southeastern Conference's new television package.

The 2010 SEC Baseball television schedule, the first under a new 15-year contract with ESPN, will include 46 broadcasts in 2010, up from eight games in 2009. In addition, all games from the 2010 SEC

Tournament will continue to be broadcast, with the championship game airing nationally on ESPN2.

The SEC television package is derived from broadcasts on ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, FSN, SportSouth and CSS. In addition, ESPN360.com will also stream all broadcasts live online (except for games that appear on ESPNU).

Alabama will make five appearances on CSS this season—Vanderbilt (March 21 – 2 p.m. CT), Auburn (April 3 – 3 p.m.), at South Carolina (May 1 – 12 p.m.), Florida (May 7 – 6:30 p.m.) and at Tennessee (May 22 – 12 p.m.). The Crimson Tide will also make one appearance on FSN, SportSouth and espn2 this season. Alabama will make its lone FSN appearance hosting Vanderbilt on Saturday, March 20, at 3 p.m. (CT). The Crimson Tide will host Florida on Saturday, May 8 at 3 p.m. on SportSouth and will host Mississippi on Saturday, May 15 at 3 p.m. on espn2.

Softball Number Two

The Alabama softball team of Coach Patrick Murphy suffered a number of losses from its 2009 roster, but national voters are impressed with the players coming back and the additions. In both national pre-season polls, Bama was ranked number two behind defending national champion Washington.

ESPN.com had Michigan third, Arizona fourth and Florida fifth. USA Today's Coaches Poll had Washington and Bama followed by Florida, Michigan and Arizona State.

After finishing the 2009 season with a 51-12 record and a NCAA

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National Championship title, Washington was a unanimous choice in the USA Today poll and received 17 of 20 votes in the ESPN.com poll. Alabama, Arizona and UCLA all received one first place vote in the ESPN.com rankings. Alabama was 54-11 last season.

In addition to Alabama and Florida, Georgia (7/8), LSU (13/18), and Tennessee (16/18) were ranked in the top 25.

Alabama's schedule includes 25 games against teams that are ranked in the top 25 in the preseason poll.

Recruiting Helps

One reason Alabama's softball expectations are high is because of the job done in recruiting by Coach Patrick Murphy and his staff. Bama's latest signing class, the four November additions who will begin play in 2011, was ranked third in the nation by ESPN RISE

The class includes utility player Ryan Jamurri and pitcher Jackie Traina, both of Naples, Florida; Kaila Hunt of Augusta, Georgia; and catcher/infielder Jordan Patterson, daughter of Alabama Gymnastic Coach Sarah Patterson and her husband David.

One of Oregon's Best

Alabama softball freshman Kayla Braud has was one of eight finalists for the Johnny Carpenter Prep Athletes of the Year, given to the best prep athlete from the state of Oregon. Braud had a national record 103 game hitting streak. She was a first team all-league selection, first team all-state honoree and league MVP all four seasons at Marist High School where she played for her grandfather Bob Hammitt.

Braud was the Oregon 4A Player of the Year her junior and senior seasons and was named an Under Armour All-American as a senior. Her hitting streak was named the number one record-breaker by ESPN RISE.

SEC's Best

Alabama senior softball star Charlotte Morgan, selected as the outstanding player in the Southeastern Conference last year, was a unanimous pre-season All-SEC selection by league coaches this year. She was joined on the team by junior pitcher Kelsi Dunne.

Top VIII

Former Alabama All-America softball player Brittany Rogers of Dacula, Georgia, was recognized at the NCAA Honors Celebration as she earned the prestigious Today's Top VIII Award.

Rogers becomes the eighth University of Alabama athlete to garner the award and the fifth in the past decade. She was presented the award by Alabama Director of Athletics Mal Moore.

The Today's Top VIII award recognizes current student-athletes who have completed their athletic eligibility for their success on the fields and courts, in the classroom and in the community. They are selected by the NCAA Honors Committee, which is composed of eight athletics administrators at member institutions and nationally distinguished citizens who are former student-athletes.

Joining Rogers as Top VIII honorees were Tim Tebow (Florida football), Amanda Blumenherst (Duke golf), Courtney Kupets (Georgia gymnastics), Venessa Lee (Pittsburg State track), Jeff Lerg (Michigan State ice hockey), Kent Raymond, (Wheaton basketball), and Sarah Stevens (Arizona State track).

Rogers was a staple on and off the field for the Crimson Tide

softball team. The four-year starter helped Alabama register three top 10 national finishes and guided the Crimson Tide to three Women's College World Series berths, including a school record back-to-back semifinal appearances. She also helped guide Alabama to the 2006 SEC championship and three SEC Western Division titles.

She finished her career ranked first in stolen bases (198); second in batting average (.417), runs (256) and hits (343); and fifth in on-base percentage (.463). She became just the second player in school history to post at least 300 hits, score 200 runs and steal 100 bases. She was selected as an all-America by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association and Easton for four straight years, becoming just the third player to nab the honors all four seasons.

Off the diamond, Rogers was the recipient of a 2009 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship and an SEC Boyd McWhorter Postgraduate Scholarship. She was the winner of a 2009 Paul Bryant Student-Athlete Award, presented to the top male and female student-athletes at Alabama.

Alabama's previous NCAA Top VIII Recipients are Randy Hall, football, 1975; Steadman Shealy, football, 1980; Meredith Willard, gymnastics, 1997; Andree Pickens, gymnastics, 2002; Kristin Sterner, gymnastics, 2003; DeMeco Ryans, football, 2006; and Beth Mallory, track and field, 2007.

Holcombe On Team USA

Former Alabama All-America catcher Ashley Holcombe of Fayetteville, Georgia, was named to the 2010 Team USA softball team by the Amateur Softball Association of America. The USA National Team will compete in the ISF Women's World Championships, June 23-July 2, 2010 in Caracas, Venezuela.

Holcombe remains in the Alabama dugout as she is serving her first season as a graduate assistant coach for the Crimson Tide.

Her former Tide teammate Brittany Rogers was named one of 13 alternates for the team. Both played for Team USA last summer following their senior seasons.

Best In The World

Alabama freshman Kirani James smashed the 400 meter school record en route to posting the current world's fastest 400 meter time in his Crimson Tide debut in the Mayo Invitational at Notre Dame.

James, in his first indoor 400-meter open race, blazed his way around the oval to claim the individual title with a NCAA automatic qualifying time of 45.79. The freshman was hardly pushed, as the second place finisher was almost a full second behind at 46.43. James's time was best in the nation by .02 seconds, led the SEC by .69 seconds, and set a new standard for Alabama, breaking a 10-year school record of 46.46 held by Cori Loving—also set in South Bend.

Earlier this year James had been named Sportsman of the Year in his country of Grenada. He came to Alabama as the world's number one youth 400-meter sprinter, including having run the fastest times for 14-year-olds, 15, and under 20 at those respective ages. He is an eight-time international champion in youth games.

In 2009 and in his under-20 debut, James defeated the defending 400m champion to win with a time of 45.45 at the 2009 CARIFTA Games. His time of 45.45 easily set a new championship record, beating world record holder and Olympic champion Usain Bolt's six-year-old mark of 46.35.

NBA All-Star

Former Crimson Tide basketball star Mo Williams was a spectator at the Alabama-Arkansas basketball game in mid-February. Many believed that Williams should not have been at that game. He should have been playing in the NBA All-Star Game.

Though Williams, a 2009 representative in the game for his performance with the Cleveland Cavaliers, was not selected, for the second consecutive season a former Bama player was in the game. Gerald Wallace became the first-ever all-star for the Carolina Bobcats. He was averaging 18.6 points and 11 rebounds per game while leading the league in minutes played.

The Childersburg native is the fourth former Alabama player to appear on an NBA all-star roster. He joins Williams, Antonio McDyess (2001) and four-time all-star Latrell Sprewell (1994, 95, 91, 2001)

Wallace played one season (2000-01) at The Capstone and earned SEC all-freshman honors after averaging 9.8 points and 6.0 rebounds per game.

NBA D-League All-Star

Former Alabama men's basketball standout Alonzo Gee was named to the NBA D-League All-Star team. Gee, a member of the Austin Toros, was selected by fans and the developmental league's 16 coaches as he had averaged 20.6 points and 7.2 rebounds and ranked 10th in scoring and 22nd in rebounding.

The 6-6 guard wrapped up his Bama career in 2009 with 1,630 career points, 11th all-time at Alabama.

McDonald's All-America

Alabama women's basketball signee Kaneisha Horn was named to the 2010 McDonald's All-America team. She was one of just 24 players in the country selected to the prestigious team that was to take part in the McDonald's High School All-America Game on March 31 in Columbus, Ohio.

Horn becomes the first Crimson Tide signee in the nine-year history of the McDonald's All-America Girls' Team to be recognized. In addition, she is just the second player from the state of Alabama to be named to the team.

Horn, regarded as one of the nation's top recruits, ranked Number 5 on the ESPN HoopGurlz 100 list, Number 2 by All Star Girls Report and Number 3 overall by Blue Star Basketball. She averaged nearly 20 points per game her junior season before suffering a torn ACL that sidelined her for 10 months. As a sophomore, Horn led Birmingham Ramsay High School in scoring and rebounding and was the team's leader in boards and blocks her freshman season.

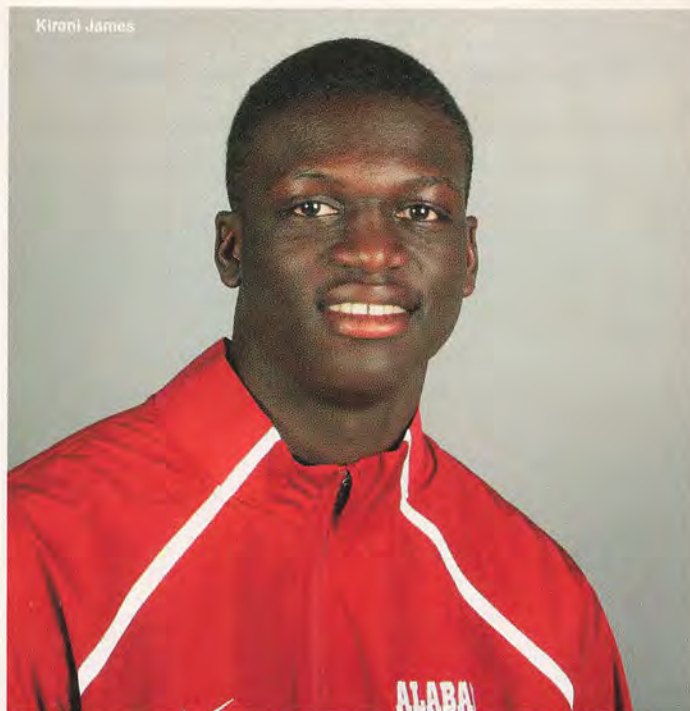
Swimmers Excel On Land, Too

The Alabama men's swimming and diving team is the top ranked Southeastern Conference team in the College Swimming Coaches Association of America's Fall Scholar All-American list while the Crimson Tide women are ranked second in the league.

Alabama's men are ranked 12th in the nation with a team grade point average of 3.20 while the women are 22nd with a 3.38 GPA.

Football 101

Former Alabama offensive coordinator Homer Smith was scheduled to host a 'Football 101' seminar as part of the Leadership



Alabama speaker series on Thursday, March 11, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Bryant Conference Center. The event is open to the public and is presented by UA's Osher Lifelong Learning Center.

That's The Spirit

The Alabama spirit squads enjoyed a successful trip to the 2010 College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championships in Orlando in January, where the Crimson Tide cheerleading squad placed second in the coed division IA finals, Big Al placed sixth in the mascot division IA competition and the Crimson Cabaret finished 15th in the division IA hip hop finals.

Battle Added To Board

Former Alabama football player Bill Battle is one of six new members of the board of directors of the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame. The new members bring the board to 47.

Other new members include former star quarterback and current television analyst Roy Aikman, television broadcaster Jim Nantz, and financial wizard T. Boone Pickens.

Although Battle was a fine end for Coach Paul Bryant's Crimson Tide in the 1960s and was a successful head coach at Tennessee (59-22-2 record, 1970-76), he is best known for his business success. He founded The Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC) in 1981. CLC is the nation's oldest and largest marketing agency dedicated to providing domestic and international licensing services to the collegiate market. CLC represents nearly 200 colleges, universities, bowls, and conferences, as well as the NCAA and The Heisman Trophy. CLC has been instrumental in growing the U.S. retail market for collegiate merchandise from approximately \$250 million in 1984 to more than \$4 billion in 2009. Since its inception in 1981, CLC has paid its member institutions over \$1 billion in royalties, most of which is used to fund scholarships.

2010 Alabama Spring Sports Schedule

Baseball

Date	Opp.	Time*
Feb. 20	South Alabama	2:05
Feb. 21	@ South Alabama	1:30
Feb. 26	Illinois-Chicago	6:35
Feb. 27	Illinois-Chicago (2)	1:05
March 2	@ Samford	6:00
March 3	Georgia @ Hoover	6:35
March 5	@ Charleston	6:00
March 6	Charleston	Noon
March 7	Charleston	Noon
March 9	Auburn @ Montgomery	7:00
March 10	Michigan State	6:35
March 12	Stony Brook	6:35
March 13	Stony Brook (2)	1:05
March 14	Stony Brook	2:05
March 16	Minnesota	6:35
March 17	Minnesota	6:35
March 19	Vanderbilt	6:35
March 20	Vanderbilt	4:05
March 21	Vanderbilt	2:05
March 26	@ Arkansas	6:30
March 27	@ Arkansas	2:00
March 28	@ Arkansas	1:00
March 30	Jacksonville State	6:35
March 31	UAB @ Hoover	6:30
April 2	Auburn	6:35
April 3	Auburn	4:05
April 4	Auburn	2:05
April 6	UAB	6:35
April 9	@ Kentucky	5:30
April 10	@ Kentucky	5:30
April 11	@ Kentucky	Noon
April 13	Samford	6:35
April 14	@ SE Louisiana	7:00
April 16	@ LSU	7:00
April 17	@ LSU	7:00
April 18	@ LSU	1:00
April 23	Mississippi State	6:35
April 24	Mississippi State	4:05
April 25	Mississippi State	2:05
April 27	Mississippi Valley	6:35
April 28	Mississippi Valley	6:35
April 30	@ South Carolina	6:00
May 1	@ South Carolina	3:00
May 2	@ South Carolina	12:30
May 4	@ Jacksonville State	6:30
May 7	Florida	6:35
May 8	Florida	4:05
May 9	Florida	2:05
May 14	Ole Miss	6:35
May 15	Ole Miss	4:05
May 16	Ole Miss	2:05
May 20	@ Tennessee	6:00
May 21	@ Tennessee	6:00
May 22	@ Tennessee	3:00

Softball

Date	Opp.	Time*
Feb. 13	Missouri (2)	1:00
Feb. 14	Missouri	1:00
Feb. 16	South Alabama	4:00
Stetson Invit. @ Deland, Fla.		
Feb. 19	Rhode Island	10:00
Feb. 19	Ohio State	12:30
Feb. 20	Ohio State	10:00
Feb. 20	Stetson	3:00
Feb. 21	Championship	11:30
Feb. 23	UAB	6:30
Leadoff Classic @ Columbus, Ga.		
Feb. 26	Maryland	12:30
Feb. 26	Iowa	3:00
Feb. 27	Michigan	10:00
Feb. 27	Nebraska	12:30
Feb. 28	UCF	11:30
Bama Easton Classic		
March 5	Michigan	6:00
March 6	DePaul	1:30
March 6	Michigan	4:00
March 7	DePaul	1:30
March 9	Liberty (2)	3:00
March 13	@ Georgia (2)	2:00
March 14	@ Georgia	1:00
March 16	@ Kentucky (2)	2:00
March 18	Florida International	6:00
March 20	South Carolina (2)	1:00
March 21	South Carolina	1:30
March 24	UAB	6:00
March 27	Florida (2)	1:00
March 28	Florida	1:30
April 2	@ Auburn (2)	5:00
April 3	@ Auburn	2:00
April 7	LSU (2)	5:00
April 10	Northwestern	1:00
April 11	Northwestern	1:00
April 13	@ Mississippi Valley	6:00
April 17	Ole Miss (2)	1:00
April 18	Ole Miss	1:30
April 20	Troy	1:30
April 24	@ Arkansas (2)	1:00
April 25	@ Arkansas	1:00
April 28	Georgia Tech	6:00
May 1	Tennessee (2)	1:00
May 2	Tennessee	1:00
May 8	@ Mississippi State (2)	1:00
May 9	@ Mississippi State	1:00

Men's Tennis

Date	Opp.	Time
Jan. 8-10	UNLV Invitational	
Jan. 15	SEC Indoor @ Atlanta	
Jan. 22	@ Northwestern	6:00
ITA Kickoff		
Jan. 30	Arizona	2:00
Jan. 31	Auburn/Duke	TBA
Feb. 7	Tulane	1:00
ITA National Indoor		
Feb. 12	@ Charlottesville, Va.	
Feb. 19	@ Oklahoma	6:00
Feb. 26	Pepperdine	1:00
Feb. 28	Eastern Kentucky	10:00
Feb. 28	Winthrop	3:00
March 5	Georgia	2:00
March 7	Tennessee	1:00
March 12	@ South Carolina	2:00
March 14	@ Florida	1:00
March 21	@ Vanderbilt	1:00
March 26	Southern Miss	4:00
March 28	Kentucky	3:00
April 2	LSU	3:00
April 4	Arkansas	1:00
April 9	@ Mississippi State	3:00
April 11	@ Ole Miss	1:00
April 14	@ UAB	1:00
April 14	@ Samford	6:00
April 17	Auburn	5:00
SEC Championships		
April 22	@ Lexington, Ky.	
NCAA Regionals		
May 14	TBA	
NCAA Championships		
May 20	@ Athens, Ga.	

Women's Tennis

Date	Opp.	Time*
Jan. 16-18	UCF Invitational @ Orlando	
Jan. 23	UAB	9:00
Jan. 23	Southern Miss	3:00
ITA Kickoff		
Jan. 29	Kentucky @ Atlanta	
Feb. 6	@ Oklahoma	Noon
Feb. 13	Georgia State	Noon
Feb. 20	@ Oregon	11:00
Feb. 27	TCU	Noon
Feb. 28	Eastern Kentucky	1:00
March 5	@ Georgia	3:00
March 7	@ Tennessee	Noon
March 12	South Carolina	3:00
March 14	Florida	1:00
March 21	Tulane	1:00
March 26	Vanderbilt	3:00
March 28	@ Kentucky	Noon
April 2	@ LSU	3:00
April 4	@ Arkansas	Noon
April 9	Mississippi State	3:00
April 11	Ole Miss	1:00
April 17	@ Auburn	6:00
SEC Championships		
April 22	@ Athens, Ga.	
NCAA Regionals		
May 14	TBA	
NCAA Championships		
May 20	@ Athens, Ga.	

Men's Golf

Date	Event
Feb. 21-23	Puerto Rico Classic
Feb. 28-March 2	John Hayt @ Sawgrass
March 19-21	Schenkel Invitational @ Statesboro, Ga.
March 26-28	Linger Longer @ Greensboro, Ga.
April 2-4	@ Augusta State Invitational
SEC Championships	
April 16-18	At St. Simons Island, Ga.
NCAA Regionals	
May 13-14	TBA
NCAA Championships	
May 25-29	@ Chattanooga

Women's Golf

Date	Event
Feb. 7-9	Lady Puerto Rico Classic
March 12-14	Tiger/Wave @ New Orleans
March 26-28	Liz Murphey @ Athens, Ga.
April 9-11	Arizona State Invite
SEC Championships	
April 16-18	NorthRiver Yacht Club, Tuscaloosa
NCAA Regionals	
May 5-8	TBA
NCAA Championships	
May 18-21	@ Wilmington, N.C.

Men's Track

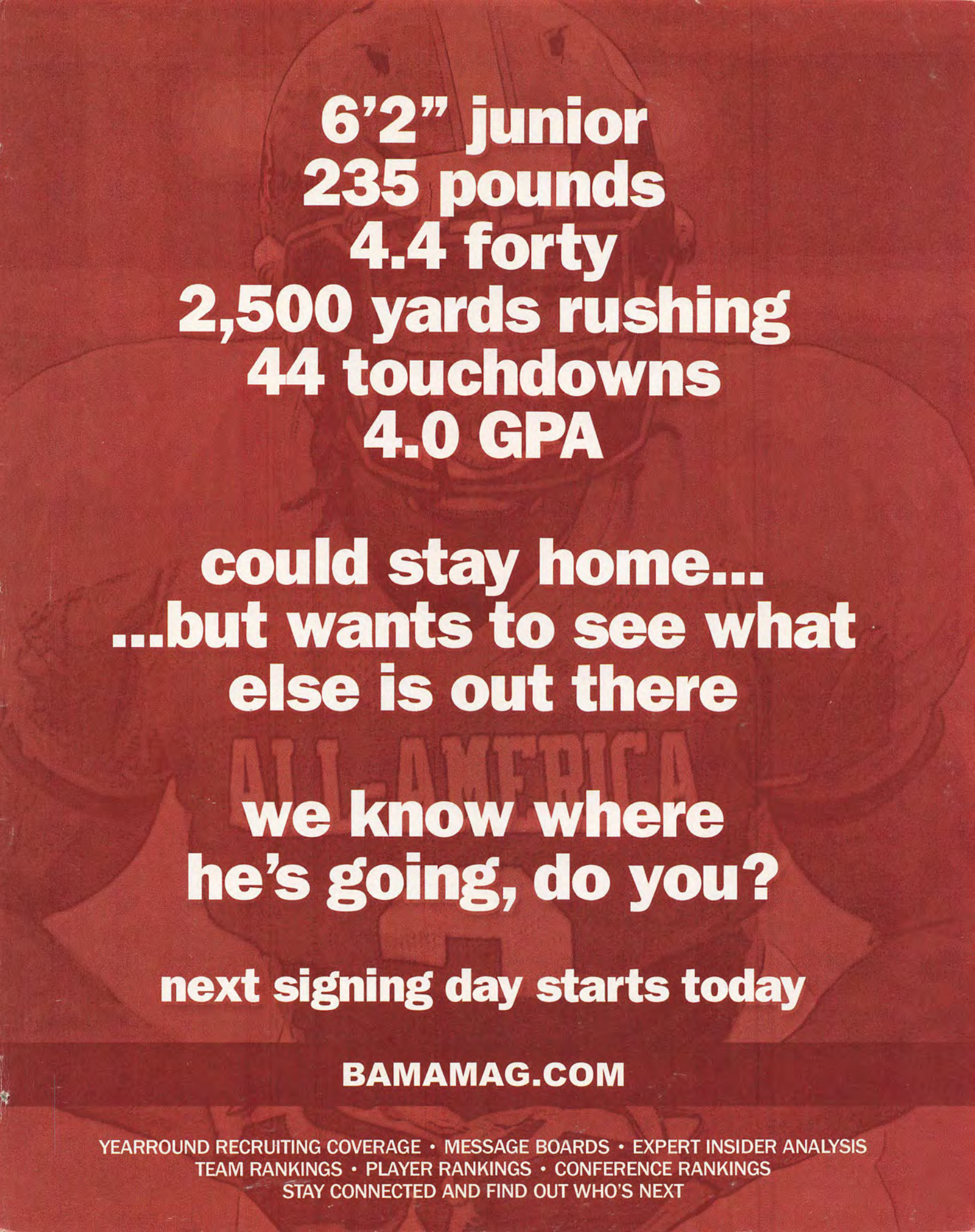
Date	Event
March 25-28	Alabama Relays
April 3	@ Florida Relays
April 10	@ Sea Ray, Knoxville
April 23-24	@ Drake Relays
May 1-2	@ Ole Miss
May 13-16	SEC @ Knoxville
May 27-29	NCAA Regionals TBA
June 9-12	NCAA @ Oregon

Women's Track

Date	Event
March 25-28	Alabama Relays
March 26-27	@ Stanford Invite
March 31	@ Texas Relays
April 10	@ Ole Miss Invite
April 17	@ Miss St Invite
April 20-24	@ Drake Relays
May 1	@ Revel Invite
May 13-16	SEC @ Knoxville
May 28-29	NCAA Regionals TBA
June 9-12	NCAA @ Oregon

Rowing

Date	Event
March 15	Kansas State
March 20	@ Clemson
March 27	@ Tennessee
April 3	Oklahoma, Old Dominion
April 17-18	Southern Intercollegiate @ Oak Ridge, Tenn.
May 1	@ Central Florida
May 15-16	South/Central Sprints @ Oak Ridge, Tenn.



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